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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CANTERBURY, WHITSTABLE, HERNE BAY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



FANS FLOCKING TO SEE BIG TOP PANTO

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ANGELINA'S BACK: Check out the latest big movies on the silver screen. Search 'preview'

ALSO INSIDE

COMPETITION PAGE 16
LETTERS PAGES 18-19
LEISURE PAGES 20-32
PROPERTY PAGES 33-34
BUSINESS PAGE 45

ISSN 1753-111-X



Picture: TIM STUBBINGS



RED HEADZ RULE, OK?

A photographer saw red at Whitstable's Horsebridge Centre on Saturday - as he spent the day snapping images of those with red hair. Tim Stubbings is planning to stage an exhibition next summer and wanted to capture the hair colouration of what he says scientists call 'a dying breed'. **FULL STORY - PAGE 5.**

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

MORE than a year after Yourcanterbury exclusively revealed plans to stage next year's panto in a giant 'big top', tickets this weekend went on sale.

As this year's pantomime Snow White got under way at the Marlowe Theatre on Saturday, eager fans have already started snapping up seats for Peter Pan in its unusual setting.

Theatre chiefs say plans are "95 per cent finalised" to see next year's extravaganza staged in a circus-style tent at the Kingsmead coach park. The novel setting will allow the traditional money-spinner to go ahead despite plans to shut the existing Marlowe in March so work can begin on the new building.

And with capacity set to be slightly lower than usual, the clamour for tickets is likely to be intense.

Development director John Baker said: "We are already getting enquiries from parties about block booking for next year, and between 50 and 60 tickets have already been sold."

"I like to put the tickets for next year's performance up for sale in the opening week, and it was nice to look at the sales database on Monday and see some had already been sold."

"I think people enjoyed Snow White and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Bob Geldof takes a trip to the seaside. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Geldof'.



2 Threshold is a most intimate drama experience. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and see the leisure channel.



3 The second part of an insight into Ashford cattle market. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'cattle'.

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Homeless given present of free Christmas meal



Picture: GARETH ARNOLD

TUCK-IN: Businesses from all over the city came together to prepare the free meal at St Peter's

AFTER hours of preparatory work, Canterbury's chefs cooked up a meal to remember at a Christmas dinner for the city's homeless on Monday.

Businesses from all over the city came together in an unprecedented show of support, with many pubs, restaurants and catering companies throwing their weight behind the plan to provide homeless people in Canterbury with a free Christmas dinner.

Charity

Organiser Matthew Meyritz, head chef at The New Inn in Havelock Street, called up chefs from Scribes, The Victoria Hotel and Casey's to help with the cooking, while The Goods Shed provided fresh veg.

The rest of the food came from Kent Frozen Foods while Acme Catering Company supplied all the crockery and cutlery.

The team of chefs spent much of the Sunday evening chopping up vegetables and cooking the meat to speed up the service on the day.

The dinner, which started at 3pm at St Peter's Hall in Canterbury, was

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

served by helpers from St Peter's Church and friends of Mr Meyritz, who also helped clear away the plates and decorate the hall.

A Christmas tree and other decorations added a festive air along with crackers for all the diners.

Speaking at the beginning of the event on Monday, Mr Meyritz said: "So far we've had about 15-20 people through the door. It's great to see smiles on faces. Many of them have come up and shaken my hand and said 'thanks Matthew'. It's nice to be making a difference."

Mr Meyritz and his brother Tom paid for the food and donations were made by other guests who paid £5 to join in with the meal.

The dinner was held in aid of the Scrine Foundation with all the funds raised being sent straight to the charity.

The entertainment was provided by live bands, homeless buskers and a choir from Christ Church University. Each homeless person also received a gift, bought from donations made online prior to the dinner.

You can still donate money at www.justgiving.com/matthewmeyritz.

Architect says council has embraced design

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

thought they would book immediately for next year."

Theatre director Mark Everett said he was already thinking about the first year's programme for the new look Marlowe in 2011, with the first big bookings expected to be made next year.

He said: "We are confident the theatre is going to open in September 2011. We have worked out the timetable in great detail with contingencies built in. To get the really big touring companies – the musicals, opera and ballet – you need to book one or two years in advance."

On Monday, award-winning architect Keith Williams revealed detailed plans of the project, which will include several innovative materials designed to make Canterbury's new theatre a unique and iconic building.

The controversial flytower will be covered in taught stainless steel mesh, held away from a waterproof coating of aluminium sheeting.

Mr Williams said: "The appearance of the flytower will change with the weather. When it is bright it will have a shimmering quality, while on darker days it will appear duller."

Mr Williams said the pointed design of the tower aims to make the flytower – used to store equipment for larger productions – a more elegant structure rather than "a lump".

The theatre itself will be clad in pale re-cast stone with colonnades leading people into a three-storey glass frontage.

Embraced

Mr Williams said: "It is a deliberately modern building for the 21st century. It is a building for the future."

"Unlike some local authorities, Canterbury council has embraced the idea cities change and grow, and have a future as well as a past."

The Second Space – the Marlowe's smaller auditorium – will be clad in dark pre-oxidised copper panels.

Mr Williams said: "This will give the Second Space a dark, red-purplish hue, making it stand out from the more neutral colours used in the rest of the building."

Mr Williams said the specially treated panels will hold their colour for at least 25 years, and will not go green.

The Marlowe Theatre will close on March 22 next year, and building work is expected to start soon afterwards.

Tenders are currently out for the project and council bosses will spend the next few weeks scrutinising the tender reports as they come back from building contractors.

However, there will be casualties if the scheme goes ahead as planned.

A number of staff will be made redundant, while council chiefs have confirmed they will not be afraid to defer the project if the current economic crisis puts a squeeze on the city's spending plans.

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One year on...finally bar building is safe

Expert: Popular site could have been scene of 'catastrophe'

EXCLUSIVE

BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE building housing a popular city centre bar could have collapsed at any moment according to experts from Canterbury council.

And only now, a year on, has the building been made safe.

Surveyors inspecting 7 Margaret's Street – which used to be part of the Slaters Hotel – late last year were horrified to discover the state of the building, and immediately told the tenants, Ha! Ha!, to evacuate the premises.

Since then the Grade II listed building has been propped up with heavy-duty supports and added to the district's list of buildings at risk where it is classified 'structurally unstable'.

Senior surveyor Oliver Chapman was one of the officers who first realised the danger.

He said: "I was actually involved in surveying the top floor as part of the issues we were having with the Slaters Hotel at the time when I



Picture GARETH ARNOLD

MATTER OF TIME: Ha! Ha! in St Margaret's Street has been propped up with heavy-duty supports since the discovery

realised the catastrophic nature of the issue.

"How it was still standing is beyond me. We told the people using the ground floor that they had to leave, for their own safety more than anything.

"I don't know how it was still standing. It could have fallen in to the street at any time, which obviously would have been catastrophic."

The Bay Restaurant Group which own the Ha! Ha! brand is now suing the owners of the leasehold for lack of maintenance, which has seen their Canterbury business closed for more than a year.

A spokesman for the company said: "We are well aware of the condition of the building and the site has been closed for more than a year.

"We are taking legal action against the land-

lord for the lack of repair and due to this legal action we are unable to comment further."

Although the building is now deemed safe with the heavy-duty supports in place, it is estimated that repair costs may run to as much as £500,000.

And there is little end in sight as the legal wrangling continues, although Canterbury council is hopeful the building will be restored over the next couple of years.

Until then, the supports will stay in place and the city can breathe a sigh of relief that the danger was caught in time.

The owners of the leasehold were unable to be contacted by Yourcanterbury at the time of going to press.

Parade in city for 5 Scots 'freedom'

SOLDIERS from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots) will be granted the freedom of the city at a ceremony in Canterbury on Sunday.

Hundreds of soldiers from the battalion will celebrate the award with a parade through the city, where they are based at Howe Barracks.

They will join a select group of people to have received the historic honour, including the Prince of Wales, Lord Carey of Clifton, who was Archbishop of Canterbury until 2002, and former Beirut hostage Terry Waite.

Captain Stevie Rae, spokesman for 5 Scots, said: "In our time here the people of Canterbury have made us feel extremely welcome and we look forward to being able to build further relationships with the local community."

Cpt Rae said that the parade would be made up of the battalion's five troop companies, accompanied by pipes and drums and led by the regimental mascot Cruchan III, a Shetland Pony.

He added: "About 550 soldiers will march with fixed bayonets, colours flying and the pipes and drums playing."

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See this year's Marlowe panto being launched. Search 'panto'

Work stopped by inspectors due to safety

FOUR businesses were told work must stop immediately due to safety concerns amid the latest inspections by Health and Safety officials.

As part of a countywide campaign to highlight safety concerns, officers visited 19 sites in Canterbury. There they issued four improvement notices and four prohibition notices.

A prohibition notice means that work activity must stop immediately due to the risk of serious personal injury.

An improvement notice requires safety standards to be improved.

The move by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors and local authority enforcement officers is part of the Common Approach to Kent Enterprise (CAKE) initiative.

Since the campaign began in November, 338 premises have been inspected across the county and 86 notices have been issued.

Mike Walters, principal inspector for the HSE in Kent, said: "Unfortunately, some premises visited had such poor health and safety standards on site that formal enforcement action had to be taken.

"Dutyholders, in some premises, were putting workers at significant risk of injury or ill-health which is disappointing."

Change in law for lapdance club not needed says owner

LAPDANCING club Scribes has spoken out over tighter regulation of venues offering exotic dancing.

The Local Government Association is calling for lapdance clubs to be reclassified as 'sex encounter establishments', which would make it harder for clubs to open in particular areas.

This would mean prospective clubs would have to go through the lengthy, more expensive planning process rather than simply adhere to licensing regulations as happens currently.

The popular city centre club in King Street was the first of its kind in the city and owner Wesley Wilson argues that after three trouble-free years he has proved that a change in the law is unnecessary.

Mr Wilson: "There are already

regulations in place and all they are talking about doing is reclassifying it.

"The council would still police it, and the only difference would be the additional cost to the clubs – up to £5,000 a year.

"We are a small club, it only seats about 30 people and we've worked hard building it up to where we are today.

"We were the first in the area and we sat round a table with the council and set out the rules we would operate under. Since then there's been no trouble of any kind – I've got a clean bill of health."

Mr Wilson's comments echo those of London club owner Peter Stringfellow who said that councils should concentrate on closing down bad clubs rather than tightening legislation for the law abiding majority.



Picture GARETH ARNOLD

CHANCE: Scribes was the first lapdance club in city

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vicar set to get pie eyed for church fair

A BRAVE vicar will be in the firing line in Herne Bay on Saturday when shoppers have the chance to hurl custard pies at him.

The event is in aid of the annual Christmas fair at the Christ Church and Parish Hall in William Street.

The hall will be full of stalls selling cakes, toys, crafts, gifts, books and bric-a-brac. There will also be plenty of mince pies and mulled punch to tempt the bargain hunters between 10am and 1pm.

Model railway set to steam into Old Dairy

EAST Kent Model Railway Society (Whitstable) works up a head of steam at the Old Dairy in Church Street, on Saturday, (Dec 6), for another of its open days.

Model railways, old and modern, will be on display between 10am and 4pm at the society's clubhouse.

Chairman Nick Evans said: "We hold a couple of open days each year and we're lucky enough to have built up some loyal followers. As we head for Christmas, the display will no doubt inspire some great ideas for presents."

Free drop-in centre for hard of hearing

FREE hearing aid maintenance is available at a drop-in clinic run by hard-of-hearing charity Hi Kent.

Hi Kent works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community and is running another of its popular clinics for hearing aid users at its Canterbury centre at 46 Northgate.

People with NHS hearing aids can visit without appointment and get their hearing aids cleaned and re-tubed, and collect fresh batteries free of charge. The next drop-in session will be held tomorrow, December 4, from 2pm to 4pm.

Art collection made just for Christmas

AN ART collective is offering a selection of unique, handmade gifts in the run up to Christmas at the Beane Institute.

Artists and craftsmen from the district will be displaying their wares at the upstairs gallery on Canterbury High Street.

Made in Canterbury can be found in the special exhibitions gallery on the first floor of the Beane on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Friday, December 5 to Christmas, plus Monday 22 and Tuesday 23. Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm.

Why Gregory's Girl is still top of the class for many

BY GARETH ARNOLD

CULT classic Gregory's Girl is the greatest school movie of all time, according to a leading authority on film and TV at Christ Church University.

But his vote was not enough to lift it into the top spot in a major nationwide survey of the best school-based movies ever made.

A recent poll carried out by Teachers' TV – a digital channel aimed at educators – was topped by Dead Poets' Society starring Robin Williams, but Dr Ken Fox, a principal lecturer of film, radio and television in the department of media, says 1981 classic Gregory's Girl remains his personal favourite.

Dr Fox said: "It is difficult not to break into a smile every time I think of Gregory's Girl. It is such a wonderful, gentle comedy of adolescent manners."

"I'm delighted to see it on the all-time school movies list. What makes the film such a great school movie is that in the best sense Gregory's Girl is less about school as an institution and more about how school is part of the network of contact points for the adolescent hormonal revolution to take place."

"The film is done with such wit and charm that it works like a bittersweet memory of our own secondary school days when unrequited love was the only thing on the curriculum."

Gregory's Girl made a star of John Gordon Sinclair, as it charted his efforts to win the heart of classmate Dorothy. It also starred Altered Images and Red Dwarf star Clare Grogan.

Dr Fox, who is doing a research project on how teaching is represented in films, was asked to contribute to Teachers' TV's Top Ten Great School Movies programme



BRIT CLASSIC: Gregory's Girl has been voted one of the top ten school-based films of all time in a poll of teachers

which will be screened on December 9.

Speaking about his research, Dr Fox said: "The project, run jointly with Dr Andrew Lambirth from the department of primary education, is an exploration of the ways in which teaching practices are represented through film."

"We look at how the art of teaching can be challenged and developed by dramatic

representations of teaching, learning and knowledge."

Trainee teacher, Stephanie Renn, who is currently studying a PGCE at the university, was also interviewed as part of the programme.

She flagged up Grease as her all time favourite school film, ranked number seven in the overall league table.



NUMBER ONE SPOT: Dead Poets' Society

Did your favourite make the top ten?

TEACHERS' TV received nearly 2,500 votes from teachers, students and pupils with more than 100 movies shortlisted for the poll.

Trainee teacher, Stephanie Renn, at Christ Church said of her personal favourite Grease: "The school setting is perfect for a musical, as demonstrated by the High School Musical franchise, which is essentially a modern version of Grease."

"Even though the actors are all years past school-age, there is a great sense of fun and positivity in Grease, which I hope a lot of people would associate with their days in education."

Teachers' TV's Top Ten Great School Movies will be screened on December 9.

The top ten movies were:

1. Dead Poets' Society
2. Kes
3. School of Rock
4. The Breakfast Club
5. History Boys
6. To Sir With Love
7. Grease
8. Ferris Bueller's Day Off
9. Gregory's Girl
10. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

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Picture: TIM STUBBINGS

CONTRASTS: A new photographic exhibition investigates the copper-coloured tones of people with ginger hair

Red heads in focus at exhibition

VISITORS to the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable were seeing red last Saturday with a unique live photographic event to document those with ginger hair.

The man behind the project, entitled Red Headz, is local photographer Tim Stubbings. A commercial photographer by trade, Mr Stubbings – a red head himself – has long wanted to investigate the unique coloration and plans an exhibition based on Saturday's session for summer next year.

He said: "People have asked me whether this is some sort of ginger crusade, but it's not. I'm just a photographer looking for a personal project to do, and as a red head myself, I've always wanted to record the hair colour as it's not an everyday subject."

"We are a minority in the population. Also, if you believe what the scientists say, genetically we're a dying breed so I think it's important to document red hair."

"It's amazing what I have discovered about red heads since starting this project. There is no such thing as a typical 'red' head; there is a massive amount of variation in shade and colour."

"Red heads are always getting torn into, getting called ginger nut and carrot top at

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

school and things like that. And only three per cent of the population have red hair, so it's even more important to record it."

The event also brought in the experts from two other Whitstable businesses. Robert Mitchell Hair Studio supplied the stylist for the shoot, as well as offering colouring expertise, and luxury chocolatiers Coco offered gallery visitors sizzling red-hot chilli chocolate goodies.

Mr Stubbings is one of Canon UK's preferred suppliers of corporate photography, and his commercial clients include design and PR agencies, local government, charities and universities.

A finalist of the 2004 London Photographic Awards, he launched his professional career in the early 1990s after graduating from the University of Kent. The live session coincides with Mr Stubbings' current exhibition which ends today at the Horsebridge Centre, entitled Retrospective.

As the name suggests, the display looks back over a whole variety of work, with a mixture of people, seascapes, landscapes and documentary photos taken over the last few years.

yourcanterbury NEWS IN BRIEF

Dustmen overcome by poisonous fumes

DUSTBIN men on their round in Beltinge were hospitalised last week after suffering a reaction to vapours given off when a bin was emptied into a dustcart.

The two men were later released with no lasting injury, but the poisoning has prompted an angry response from the city's waste managers. Especially as it forced the dustcart off the road for several days to be decontaminated.

The council's street scene manager, Chris Wallis, said: "Although the cause of the vapours is unknown, we think it was the result of a reaction between bleach and an acidic compound."

"We'd like to remind people that liquids should not be put into wheelie bins, especially those whose containers carry the hazardous waste signs, such as bleach. The plastic containers these liquids come in can be put into the clear recycling sacks, provided they have been thoroughly washed out."

The dustcart had to be decontaminated and was off the road for a few days, causing some disruption to collections.

Memorial service for Argyll sniper 'Jimmy'

THE memorial service for Lance Corporal James Johnson, a soldier of 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders killed in action in Afghanistan, took place on Friday.

The service took place at All Saints Church, Canterbury with 200 soldiers from his regiment marching to the church to mark the death of their comrade.

LCpl James 'Jimmy' Johnson, who trained as a sniper, was killed on patrol when a mine exploded.

Army colleagues described LCpl Johnson as "an extremely fit man who put others to shame with his ability to burn the candle at both ends and still perform."

Reward for information on stolen street signs

FIVE metal signs have been stolen from an estate in Whitstable.

The metal signs with the wording 'private estate' and 'keep dogs on leads' were taken from Preston Parade and St Mary's Grove in the Granville Cliffe estate area.

Community support officer Aaron Newell said: "The signs were put up by the estate committee after problems."

"They are of little monetary value and the estate committee will consider a reward for any information that leads to an arrest."

Anyone with any information can contact Aaron Newell at Whitstable police station on 07772 226198.

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Saturday 20th at 8pm CHRISTMAS DISCO INFERNO	COMING SOON 2009	Friday 20th March LEMAR in Concert
Sat 20th & Mon 22nd at 7.30pm Christmas Party Nights	Saturday 14th February Valentine Rendezvous Dance	Saturday 21st March Bjorn Again
Sat 27th & Sun 28th at 2.30pm & 7.30pm Fabulous Festive Variety Spectacular CHRISTMAS CRACKERS	Tuesday 17th February Simple Simon	Sunday 5th April The Enemy
Wednesday 31st at 8pm New Years Eve Family Dance New Years Eve Adult Dance	Friday 20th February 4 Pools and a Piano	Saturday 18th April Essence of Ireland
	Sunday 22nd February Televised British Wrestling	Wednesday 6th May Rob Brydon
	Friday 27th February Colin Fry and TJ Higgs	Sunday 10th May Leon Jackson in Concert
	Saturday 28th February An audience with "ANDY ABRAHAM"	Sunday 17th May Rhidian Roberts in Concert

Kris on song in LA

A HERNE Bay singer songwriter has won the best international artist award at this year's Los Angeles Music Awards.

Kris Searle moved to America after losing his record deal in the UK. Now he is building a fan base in the US where his brand of British rock pop has proved to be a hit.

The 27-year-old said: "It was one of the most incredible nights I have ever had."

Log-on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Kris' to see the artist in conversation with our reporter Jane Connolly.

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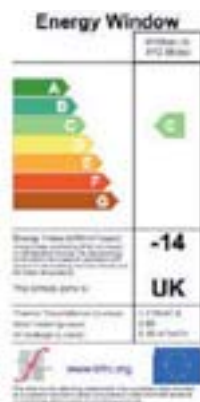
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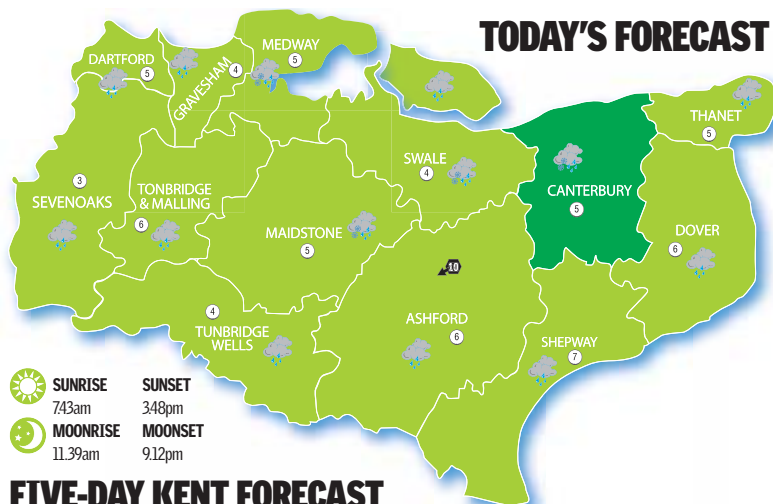
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C	Gravesend	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Chatham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C	Ramsgate	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Dartford	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C	Rochester	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	4°C	3°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Faversham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:38pm	5.2m
	Sunday	5:27pm	5.0m
Dover	Saturday	2:46pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:42pm	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:40pm	6.6m
	Sunday	3:30pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:16pm	4.2m
	Sunday	4:12pm	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	5:16pm	4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:30pm	4.7m
	Sunday	5:24pm	4.5m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	6°C
Athens	17°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	12°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	31°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	5°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	12°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	10°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	19°C

yourcanterbury

NEWS IN BRIEF

Train price hike hits travellers from city

CANTERBURY commuters will be hit hard by rail fare rises in the new year.

The price of a weekly season ticket to London will increase by £7.50 – a rise of 8.6 per cent. This means a commuter travelling for a year will be £390 out of pocket.

The rises are based on an agreement Southeastern made with the government in 2006, where they are allowed to raise fees by the retail price index plus three per cent.

At present this means Southeastern's rail fares will increase by an average of eight per cent. However, this is an average increase – some fares will rise more than others, including the route from Canterbury.

Southeastern also pointed out that in December 2009 passengers from Canterbury will have the option to use a new fast service to St Pancras which will take 61 minutes rather than the current average of 102 minutes. However, passengers may have to pay up to 35 per cent extra to use the new line.

Traditional entertainment

YOU don't have to be Scrooge to experience Christmas past – you can explore a Victorian Christmas at the Canterbury Museum.

Family-friendly activities for frazzled shoppers include decorating a Victorian parlour, choosing a present from the Christmas tree and enjoying traditional games. There is also the chance to make your own cracker and enjoy a visit from the real St Nicholas.

A Victorian Christmas will be held between 10.30am and 4pm on Saturday. Admission is free to holders of a Residents' Card, otherwise entry is the normal price.



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

MOIRA HYDE



Q & A

The tutor organiser for the Kent branch of adult education specialists the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), which provides courses on a range of subjects across the county, talks to Ed Hill

Q What is the history of the group?

A The WEA began in 1903, at a time when there was no educational provision for working class adults. Democratic choice was established, whereby students have a say in the courses offered, that choice is continued through the branch programme to this day.

Q How did you first get involved with the organisation?

A I began as tutor on a women and health course in Deal and I developed a community and health action programme in Dover.

Q What sorts of courses are run by the WEA and how are they organised?

A The branch programme is organised by student volunteers who hold meetings in their localities to review the programme and decide what they want to offer in the future. It is then my role to provide professional tutors, and to oversee and support the programmes.

The community programme in Kent includes health, wellbeing and parenting courses, some of which are accredited through the Open College Network. Alongside this programme we offer IT, numeracy, and literacy courses. We also offer courses to adults with learning difficulties. All of these courses are designed and adapted to meet the needs of particular groups. In addition, we have a workplace programme, offered in partnership with Unison, offering courses that meet the needs of specific groups of workers.

Q What do you think adult courses offer to people?

A Our branch programme offers people the chance to learn what they want to learn, in venues selected by their branch volunteers, with tutors who are experts in their particular fields. Many of our students have been with us for decades and are proud of the WEA tradition of lifelong learning.

Our community programme aims to reach people who may have had a negative experience of school or live in disadvantaged areas. The first stage is normally confidence-building, helping people identify and express their own needs and where they want to go. We then point our students towards progression routes, with the WEA or other learning providers.

We have many examples of courses changing people's lives. Every student completes an evaluation form so we are able to gauge how well they have learnt and how they have responded to the course.

Q How do people go about finding what courses are in their area?

A The Southern Regional office is in Rochester and there is a telephone number for all enquiries: 0800 3281060. People can also look at our website: wea.org.uk/southern or they can email us at southern@wea.org.uk.

Q What is the government's commitment to lifelong learning?

A The WEA is recognised and supported by central and local government. At present,

the government is prioritising vocational courses, numeracy, literacy and skills for life courses. All at the WEA would like there to be more recognition of the social value of lifelong learning courses, which make up the majority of our branch programme and provide a lifeline to many students.

Q Is modern technology a help or hindrance to what you do? Do people really need to go on courses in this day and age of the internet?

A Courses provide an opportunity for our students to meet like-minded people and share ideas. The internet provides a wealth of information but I don't think it comes close to the experience of researching your subject by doing the foot-work and sharing it with a group of students, who are there because they want to be there. I am very worried about the isolation that is spreading among communities, much of which can be attributed to over-reliance on technology. On balance, I would say modern technology is a great help but it can never replace the energy and social-interaction of a classroom.

Q Do you have any heroes that have inspired you in life?

A I was inspired by the community arts movement in the 1980s, and some of the tutors who taught me that, however skilled or knowledgeable we are, creativity is central to personal and social development. Unfortunately this is hard to measure by ticking boxes and so it falls off the agenda all too often.

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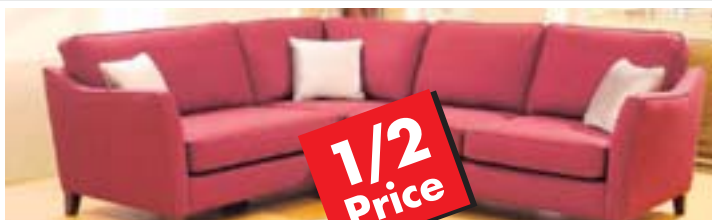


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Reporter Anna White checks out the latest toys that are set to top the best-sellers list this Christmas. Search 'toys'



Union members in Dover take to the streets to stop lorries in a dispute over jobs at the docks. Search 'strike'



Discover the history of one of the county's most famous cattle markets. Search 'cattle'



Why boats had to be launched sideways at one historic dockyard. Search 'sideways'



A new state-of-the-art café opens for business at the end of one of the county's best-loved piers. Search 'pier'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Gardeners go wild encouraging nature

BY NICK AMES

MORE than 1,000 people across the county have signed up for the RSPB's Home For Wildlife project – as the first results of this year's survey are revealed.

Some 25,000 gardeners nationwide have signed up to the scheme, which offers free, tailored wildlife-gardening advice to help people transform their homes and gardens into mini-nature reserves.

And the county has proved one of the most enthusiastic embracers of the project, with only four other counties providing a higher number of participants.

The RSPB's Richard Bashford said: "Kent's wildlife is increasingly reliant on our gardens for food, water and shelter, so it's fantastic that people are so committed to making their homes and gardens wildlife-friendly."

"Through Homes For Wildlife, we're trying to reverse the alarming decline of familiar birds such as house sparrows, starlings and song thrushes. Large numbers of these birds make their homes in our gardens."

"The time committed by Kent residents in taking action will help create a better future for them and other wildlife in the not-too-distant future."

Results show participants are carrying out an average of 12 tasks each to help frogs, toads, bats, insects, hedgehogs and birds.

Providing seed mixes, growing flowering nectar-rich plants and planting dense thorny bushes are some of the most popular actions people have taken as part of the Homes For Wildlife project.

Participants also counted birds, bats, bees, butterflies and bugs over the summer.

Across Kent, about 70 per cent counted blackbirds' nests. The snail was the creature most seen across the region, with an average



Picture: RSPB/ISLE TRAITER

BOOST: By making our gardens more wildlife-friendly, we can help reverse the decline of birds such as the house sparrow

of 13 per garden, one more than the national average.

Other results reveal that about 80 per cent of gardens surveyed had frogs, around a third had toads, and half had newts. About half of the gardens participating in the region also had bats and hedgehogs.

Kent was the only county in the South East to record the national average of five house sparrows per garden. All other counties in the region lagged behind with an average of three.

Despite house sparrows remaining the most-seen bird in gardens, numbers have reduced by more than two-thirds over 30 years. Research

suggests a lack of insects to feed young is contributing to declines. Homes For Wildlife participants are helping to combat this by encouraging insects back into their gardens.

Mr Bashford added: "We've made a fantastic start, but it's really important that more people get involved. Now is a great time to think longer-term about turning your garden into a haven for wildlife."

"The more people who sign up and take action, the bigger effect we will have. By taking simple wildlife-friendly steps in our gardens, collectively we will make a real difference for many Kent birds and other wildlife."

Don't fall prey to the scammers this Christmas

FIND yourself faced with a wrangle over your rights while shopping this festive season? Then help is at hand.

With the credit crunch set to change our buying habits, consumer support groups say they are ramping up their efforts to ensure we do not end up being ripped off this Christmas by making us all aware of our rights.

And with even some of the biggest retail names bucking under the pressure of an impending recession, shopping with confidence is crucial to reviving our local economies.

Consumer Direct South East, a Government-funded advice organisation, and Kent Trading Standards provide guidance on consumer rights and practical advice for problems with goods and traders.

The Consumer Direct website offers information and guidance on a variety of issues including online shopping, handling credit, avoiding scams and guarantees and contracts.

And if you want to only buy from companies who have proved themselves as fair and honest, then Trading Standards in the region has set up the Buy With Confidence scheme which gives access to a free directory of trusted traders.

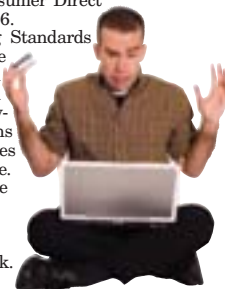
Only businesses that pass strict tests are accepted on to the scheme.

As well as general advice and guidance on disagreements, Consumer Direct can also advise on making complaints; refer a case to a local Trading Standards service; and explain more about issues such as warranties, refunds and buying on credit. You can phone Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

Kent Trading Standards

offers an advice pack and useful leaflets and a list of frequently-asked questions which provides helpful guidance.

For details, see www.consumerdirect.gov.uk or www.tradingstandards.gov.uk.



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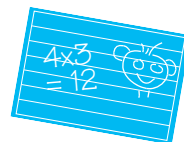


ON SCREEN

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Youngsters help to develop field's future prospects



GRAND DESIGN: The new logo was chosen as part of a link up with primary school pupils in the area

PUPILS from Joy Lane Primary School have helped the Friends of Prospect Field choose a new logo for the community project in Whitstable.

Prospect Field is an open space adjacent to the Joy Lane allotments, which provides a home for numerous animal and plant species.

As part of the project, children were able to learn about the area, as well as the importance of choosing a memorable logo which would inspire people to get involved in the Prospect Field project.

With this in mind, the logo the children selected represents many helping hands and also resembles the grassland habitats found at the site.

The site has stunning views over the coast to Sheppey and beyond, and the area is one of the few remaining semi-natural green spaces in Whitstable.

The council says sensitive management of the site is required to ensure it is maintained as a haven for wildlife and as a valuable green link between Whitstable and Seasalter.

Until about the 1950s Prospect Field and

the area around it was farmed. Since farming declined in the area the site has developed into scrub and grassland, becoming a valuable habitat for a range of wildlife.

The logo was chosen at a special school assembly where the whole school voted for the winning design from a shortlist chosen by the Friends' committee.

The committee was formed following local interest in the site, and initial meetings were held in January 2008 to form the Friends group.

Since then, the team has worked with the council to write the draft plan.

The Prospect Field draft management plan was put together by the Friends and the city council outlines potential future projects to improve the site for both people and wildlife.

Consultation on the plan runs until January 9 and copies are available on the council's website at www.canterbury.gov.uk, in paper format by calling Rosemary Selling on 01227 862577, or by popping into the town's council office, information centre, or the Whitstable Umbrella Centre.

BREAK TIME

Exhibition celebrates great art and a popular teacher

THIS week sees the start of the biennial John Millest exhibition at Canterbury College.

The event includes work by a wide variety of local artists, who will be exhibiting and selling their work with a proportion of the proceeds of any sales going to the John Millest Trust.

The Trust was set up after the death in 1994 of John Millest, a popular and much respected lecturer in art and the history of art at the college.

It was his wish that any commemoration of him should be for the benefit of students, particularly those in need.

The Trust enables students of art and history of art to visit galleries in Britain and abroad, who would not otherwise be able to do so due to the cost involved.



IN MEMORY: The John Millest Trust's exhibition is a celebration of a wide variety of 2D and 3D work by local artists

Current students also enjoy browsing the interesting collection of art books provided by the trust in the college library.

A variety of 2D and 3D artworks at affordable prices will be on display at the exhibition, which runs until December 10.

SEND your school news and pictures to yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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Mountain of salt is ready for our roads

■ BY ED HILL

YOU heard it here first – our roads will be prepared for the traditional snow white-out this winter.

At least that's the brave claim by Kent Highway Services (KHS), which says by harnessing precise forecasting, salt to tackle ice and snow on our roads "can now be laid at the right time, first time".

Which will be music to the ears of commuters who all too often find that the first flurry of snow causes chaos to the main roads in the county, prompting complaints over why preparations were not made in advance.

But this year 20,000 tonnes of salt has been stockpiled and 64 spreading vehicles across seven salting depots – including the new super-depot at Ashford – are ready to go out.

A Kent Highways spokesman said: "Treating the roads is based on detailed information and careful planning. When salting vehicles leave the depot, it's the final stage in a process that starts with watching the weather."

Data is gathered from 14 stations around the county. The information includes road temperature, air temperature and moisture levels. Five of the stations also have cameras to monitor what the roads look like at any given time.

The data is then gathered together by a meteorological company that merges it with a



PREPARED: More than 20,000 tonnes of salt and 64 spreading vehicles are ready to keep roads open in winter

weather forecast dedicated to Kent's roads. The resulting information is issued to KHS three times a day, and this is turned into a Kent road weather forecast, giving details of any salting action as necessary.

The forecast categorises action into green, amber or red. Red alert means temperatures on the road will drop to freezing and the salting crews will usually go out. A green forecast requires no salting action, while amber alerts salting crews action could be necessary and a further update will be issued.

Kim Hills, head of community operations for KHS, said: "People think salting the roads is about rushing out when the first snowflake

falls, but there's a lot of planning involved to make sure we're delivering the service as effectively and efficiently as possible.

"While Kent residents are tucked up in bed, we're out and about laying salt at the right time to make sure Kent's roads are as safe as possible in winter weather."

A spokesman added: "In the event of really bad weather, the crews move into a shift pattern to work around the clock and, for extreme weather, snow-ploughs can be quickly fitted to the front of salting vehicles.

"KHS also maintains salt-bins around the county. These bins are currently being topped up with salt or replaced if damaged."

Family and friends give thanks for a 'wonderful' man

TRIBUTES were paid to former KCC leader Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart during a thanksgiving service at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, who stepped down as council leader in 2005, died on August 14 after a long battle with cancer.

Hundreds of friends, family members, former colleagues and politicians gathered for the cathedral service.

Michael Howard, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said Lord Bruce-Lockhart had a "remarkable" political career.

After the service, Labour MP Ruth Kelly described him as "absolutely wonderful", adding she had a good working relationship with him, in spite of their different political backgrounds. "He wanted to do what was right," she said.

Local government minister John Healey said: "He was a great figure in local government. In many ways he had so much more to offer to the country."

The service was led by the Very Rev Robert Willis, the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, and there were readings by Harriet Creelman, Lord Bruce-Lockhart's niece, and old friend Chris Gosling.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart became a county councillor for Maidstone Rural East in 1989. He led KCC for eight years from 1997, was knighted in 2002, made chairman of the Local Government Association in 2004 and became a life peer in 2006.

In 2007 he was appointed chairman of English Heritage.



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Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Canterbury...

Salvation from any more shame is well worth it

THE impending departure of Woolworths from our high streets is a remarkable turn of events.

Yet, perhaps in this day and age, it is more remarkable that a shop has survived in such a competitive market when such a huge amount of its floor space was taken up by the humble pick and mix. Or should that be Pick 'n' Mix.

I'm no economics expert, but surely a trade based on what were once known as penny chews cannot be a big money earner today?

When I was young, every newsagent would have big jars of sweets and for a few pennies you could secure a 'quarter' of what took your fancy. I'm not sure I ever knew what the quarter was of – some sort of weight, that much I was certain of – but when it resulted in me getting a paper bag full of fizzy cola bottles, I was the last to seek clarification, I assure you.

But then things changed in the sweet market. Woolies made it a help yourself affair. There was none of this shopkeeper weighing up the bags business after carefully scooping a

load of liquorice allsorts onto the scales. Oh no.

Now you grabbed a paper sack and tipped as many chocolate buttons coated in hundreds and thousands, or – if you were after quality over quantity – those nice chocolate covered nuts, as you could and got in the queue.

Then, while trying to act cool, you experienced that all important sensation which would occur again and again into adulthood. But that first time – well it was a particular type of stomach churning humiliation; discovering what you thought would cost one price actually cost about triple the amount.

Still without an idea of the measurement system after the quarter confusion, I would shovel the sweets in willy-nilly, thinking to myself just how on earth could these cost more than the shiny 50p I clutched in my mitts.

Lo and behold, a quick weigh and £1.29 would flash up. Not a lot in today's money, but practically a month's (pocket) money then.

Of course, I couldn't bring myself to say "listen, mate, I've misjudged this, I'm off to tip most of these back, oh, and I cannot believe

you're not being prosecuted for what is effectively daylight robbery", no. Instead, I'd go redder than the artificial colouring in the sweets and be forced to spend most of my life's savings to bail me out and save further blushes. Little wonder I grew up with so many hang-ups.

Same with the cinema. Today, I take my children and I ensure they never repeat the mistake I made, by withdrawing 50 quid before I even set foot in the complex. Sure enough by the time three bags of sweets, some popcorn and drinks have been precariously carried to our seats, that money has disappeared.

And again, it is a pick 'n' mix which lies at the centre of the scandal.

Of course, I'm sorry to hear of Woolworths' predicament. But if it means future generations never fall victim to the sweet miscalculation then it's impending death will not have been in vain.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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There's Anchor Extra Thick with Brandy Real Dairy Cream, a favourite with dads, Anchor Extra Thick Real Dairy Cream, a luxury treat for all occasions and Anchor Chocolate Flavour Mousse, the perfect way to make fruit fun for kids over the Christmas period.

All three flavours go deliciously well with your favourite seasonal winter fruits and there's never been a better time to get festively fruity now Anchor has launched its 'We Love Festive Little Squirts' campaign bursting with easy to prepare recipes.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and day-time telephone number to Anchor Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is December 12, 2008.

Question: Which flavour of Anchor Real Dairy Cream will be a favourite with dads this Christmas?

- a) Anchor Extra Thick with Brandy Real Dairy Cream
- b) Anchor Extra Thick Real Dairy Cream
- c) Anchor Chocolate Flavour Mousse

For more fruity recipe ideas to try with your festive little squirts see www.anchorsquirtymoments.co.uk.

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TALK TIME

DR DAVID COCKERILL

The leading particle physicist visited Canterbury Christ Church University to discuss CERN's 'Big Bang' experiment and the Large Hadron Collider



What is the Large Hadron Collider?

The collider is a gigantic scientific instrument near Geneva, where it spans the border between Switzerland and France about 100 metres underground in a circular tunnel, 27km in circumference.

It is a particle accelerator used by physicists to study the smallest known particles, the fundamental building blocks of all things. It will revolutionise our understanding, from the minuscule world deep within atoms to the vastness of the universe.

How does it work?

Two beams of subatomic particles called hadrons – either protons or lead ions – travel in opposite directions inside the circular accelerator, gaining energy with every lap.

Physicists use the collider to recreate the conditions just after the Big Bang, by colliding the two beams head-on at very high energy. Teams of physicists from around the world analyse the particles created in the collisions using special detectors in a number of experiments dedicated to the collider.

Summer 2008 saw the completion of the commissioning of Compact Muon Solenoid, a collaboration by more than 2,000 people and one of the four large experiments at the collider. The first dramatic beams were circulated in September.

What is your background in theoretical physics?

I have been involved with the preparation of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN since 1990, and studied physics at Oxford, graduating in 1975.

I then completed a PhD at Imperial College on high-energy physics, and went to work at CERN until 1985. Since then I've worked at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

YOUR LETTERS



Death on the roads and on our screens

This letter will no doubt make very uncomfortable reading for Terry Hudson.

Unfortunately, many drivers sneakily begin exceeding the speed limit by five or 10mph then, feeling confident that no harm can come of it, incrementally increase their speed until they transform into the motorists who routinely exceed 100mph on motorways and hurtle around town centres and country lanes like they are re-enacting scenes from the Italian Job.

Speeding drivers always believe an accident will never happen to them until it suddenly and unexpectedly does, often with life-changing consequences.

Scores of 'petrolheads' who throw caution to the wind appear on Traffic Cops and similar television programmes, leaving a trail of devastation and bereavement.

Alas, yes Terry, I do think they are rapidly becoming "representative of the general speeding motoring public".

Meanwhile, Julian Brazier absolutely deserves to win a charity champion award this year (MP in running for media gong over video game bill,



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Yourcanterbury, November 19).

He has campaigned tirelessly to make the British Board of Film Classification accountable to Parliament. It is unfortunate the board cannot be relied upon

to prevent films and computer games containing high levels of sadistic violence from being allowed on to the market.

Whoever sits on the board clearly lacks both the insight and

foresight required to make them aware of the incalculable damage being done to Britain's youth by movies and games depicting scenes of torture and killing.

I am confident Parliament will eventually be permitted to override the BBFC's unaccountable incompetence.

I fear, however, that there will be more assaults and murders by people re-enacting scenes from their favourite brutal film or video game before our slow-to-react politicians vote decisively and unanimously to regulate the BBFC.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury



A dam fine defence of the great man

This is a poem my father, Ron Lewis, aged 85, wrote with regard to the wording on the plaque on the Barnes Wallis statue. I hope you like it:

Barnes Wallis was a clever chap
Who with considerable aplomb,
And higher maths and slide rule,
Designed the bouncing bomb.

'Twas a very great achievement
And although aloft he's gone,
They decided on a monument
With an inscribed plaque
thereon.

On the day of dedication,
BW was looking down.
He read the words upon the
plaque
And his face creased into frown.



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Were these really words of honour?
Or did my eyes deceive me?
For it really looks that after all
They had it IN – for – me!

Jill Barnett, by email

A quick debunking of hidden slow agenda

If one has a very weak argument without any real facts and figures, then you can try the cheap, emotive approach, as with Lib Dem Cllr Michael Steed's reply to my letter.

I believe unnecessary slow and politically-motivated speed limits are more there for levelling the time difference between much slower public transport and private cars, and also to make journeys more frustrating.

If it goes ahead, Nottingham will become the first place in Britain to impose workplace parking fees, where employers will be charged £350 annually for every parking space they provide for staff.

This is fully supported by the Lib Dems along with road tolls, congestion charging and high rates of vehicle excise duty.

Politically motivated? Yes, as politicians want us out of our cars and so control our lives more effectively, through a bus timetable.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Spiritual ambitions in the material world

With the Better Than Christmas project, James Connelly and Leila Redpath will explore people's wants

and desires through a survey of Christmas wishes. Christmas and New Year are a focus for both consumer gratification and broader hopes of renewal or change. By drawing and painting people's 'real' Christmas wishes, they will create an opportunity for reflection as well as an insight into just how far we may have moved from spiritual to material ambition. To participate, collect a form or log on to www.betterthanchristmas.com and express your real Christmas wish.

Leila and I will endeavour to draw or paint it, whatever it may be.

All the pictures will be on display at the Horsebridge Arts Centre, Whitstable, from January 7-10.

James Connelly, by email

Uncomfortable facts about comfort foods

With the cold winter weather, many readers might feel in need of some warming comfort foods.

But many traditional comfort foods can be high in fat, which is bad news for the waistline.

Putting on weight can have an impact on our cancer risk as scientists say that, after not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight is the most important thing you can do for cancer prevention.

We have put together a Healthy Comfort Foods recipe booklet, proving that you can transform your favourite comfort foods into nutritious and tasty treats. We are offering the booklet free to the first 100 readers who call 0207 343 4205 and quote 'media.'

Lisa Cooney, head of education,
World Cancer Research Fund

Dog protection laws need sharper teeth

I am writing to you about the problem of 'status' dogs, an issue the RSPCA is campaigning on.

Dogs used as weapons are becoming increasingly popular in urban gangs. Indeed, the RSPCA saw a fifteen-fold increase in the number of complaints about dog fighting between 2004-07.

These dogs can suffer terrible injuries through fighting or cruelty, including violence inflicted by owners. Such dogs are also used to intimidate, fight or even attack people and other animals (often other dogs and cats) and this has a huge impact on communities.

The RSPCA is urging readers to lobby their MP and ask them to put their name forward for the Private Members' Bill ballot, taking place on December 11. Alternatively, visit www.giveanimalsavoice.org.uk for more information.

It will just take a few minutes, but with enough support this could be the start in creating legislation to tackle this horrific trend. Current legislation is failing enforcers, owners and dogs alike.

Readers could also write to the minister responsible at Defra, Jane Kennedy MP, to ask her to consider updating the law.

RSPCA centres are bulging with unwanted status dogs such as bull breeds and Staffordshire bull terrier crosses. We need to act now to alleviate this growing crisis and consolidate the law to protect both dogs and humans.

Paul Stilgoe,
regional superintendent, RSPCA

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**01303 817150****yourcanterburyleisure****CHRISTMAS CHEER:** The streets of Rochester will come alive as the town celebrates the festive period with entertainment from Dickensian times**A Dickens of
a Christmas**

Town to celebrate author during festive period

JOURNEY back in time and see the festive season through the eyes of a great writer with Rochester's Dickensian Christmas.

This weekend the town will be transporting visitors back to the 1800s for a traditional celebration of Christmas. Rochester will be alive with family entertainment and festivity from Dickens' day, proving the perfect antidote to modern day stresses and worries.

The streets that Dickens explored as a boy will be populated with entertainers and musicians. Visitors will also have the chance to join in with favourite Christmas carols and enjoy a guaranteed snowfall.

The festival actually begins on Friday (Dec 5) with the Grand Mistletoe Ball at the Corn Exchange. A three-course meal will be followed by music from The Donn Barcott Band. Tickets cost £24, to book call 01795 843317.

On Saturday, pick up some bargain Christmas gifts from Bespoke 2008 in The Prince's Hall at the Corn Exchange. Running from 10.30am to 4.30pm, the free event showcases the best of Medway's talented designers and makers.

Father Christmas will be in residence at Rochester Castle Gardens from 11am to 4pm both days, while at 3pm on Saturday Dickens' great,

**ROCHESTER'S
DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS**Saturday December 6 and Sunday December 7,
various venues in Rochester

great grandson Gerald will perform his acclaimed one-man interpretation of A Christmas Carol at The Queens' Hall.

Ashley Davis will host the sumptuous Bull Dinner at 7.30pm at the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel and at the same time the Christmas Concert With A Twist will be held at St Margaret's Church, with organist Gavin Williams and friends.

The fun continues on Sunday with John Bromley-Davenport QC's adaptation of A Christmas Carol in the cathedral nave at 1pm. Experience

some real traditional entertainment at 2pm when The Fabulous FezHeads, England's premier sand dance vaudevilian illusionists, will baffle and amuse the audience at The Queens' Hall.

On both days The Seven Poor Travellers' Procession will set off from the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel at 11am to the Six Poor Travellers' House, in time for the carving of the Christmas turkey. At noon Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Carr, will lead a procession of Dickens' characters and other participants from the junction of High Street and Almon Place to Rochester Castle Gardens.

The candlelit parade sets out from the same spot at 4.45pm, followed by an open-air carol concert overlooking Rochester Cathedral at 5pm. The BAE Systems Brass Band will lead a selection of carols which will be enhancing by a guaranteed snowfall.

Extra entertainment will be taking place at Rochester Castle Gardens both days, including a children's traditional funfair and a Christmas craft fair and there will be services taking place at the Cathedral throughout the weekend. With a wealth of street entertainment and activities at other venues, it should be a spectacular start to the festive season.

A full programme can be downloaded online at www.medway.gov.uk/dickensianchristmas or call Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666 for more details.**FOR MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT VISIT @ yourkenttv.co.uk**

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FATHER CHRISTMAS

Various dates in December
Wildwood, near Herne Bay

DURING his busy Christmas travels, Santa Claus will be stopping off to deliver some festive cheer to a popular wildlife discovery park.

He will be visiting Wildwood from 2pm to 4pm this weekend and again on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, 20 and 21, and from 4pm to 6pm on Monday, December 15 to Wednesday, December 17.

Children will be able to meet Father Christmas in his specially designed grotto

near the shop and visitors will also meet a herd of fallow and red deer.

The cost is £2 per child and places should be booked in advance on 01227 712111, as Father Christmas is likely to be very busy. All the money raised by the event will be used to support the conservation of rare British species such as water voles, red squirrels and dormice.

Access to Father Christmas at weekends is only permitted if membership or entrance to the park has been paid. This does not apply to weekday slots, as only the shop will be open and access to the park restricted. For more information go online at www.wildwoodtrust.org.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Tuesday December 9 to
Tuesday December 23
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

DISCOVER whether hunger is stronger than love in the Gulbenkian Theatre's enchanting Christmas show.

The family production tells the story of Hansel and Gretel, the brother and sister who are abandoned in the woods by their starving father.

Unable to feed his family, the poor woodsman gives in to his wife's demands and leaves his children to their fate in the dark forest.

After finding their way home the first time, the pair do not have as much luck the second time. Instead, they follow their noses to the heart of the woods, where both a sweet treat and a terrible witch await them.



With her taste for children on toast, will they be able to escape from the witch in time?

Presented by Lyngo Theatre, the show is a musical treat with lots of captivating songs, multi-role performances and striking imagery. Patrick Lynch, from

CBBC's Razzle Dazzle, stars as Hansel.

The family show is suitable for children aged four and above. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £7 for children and £35 for family/friends groups of five. To book call 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

THE MERCURYMEN

Monday December 8
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

THE next Maverick@Zebra showcase is not to be missed, as the headline act comes with high recommendation.

The Mercuryymen have a number of celebrity fans, including Coldplay, Brian Wilson and Ryan Adams, and they are tipped to be one of next year's big pop success stories.

Having toured incessantly throughout this year and opened for the likes of Level 42, Melody Gardot and Deacon Blue, the band is now preparing to release its first album in February.

Jinder, Simon Johnson and Gavin Wyatt were already quietly making a splash as solo performers before coming together in 2006.



Wyatt met the legendary producer Mickie Most at just 21 and spent the next four years learning the craft of songwriting from a great.

Guitar prodigy Johnson joined the Most stable after taking lessons with British guitar hero Albert Lee.

The former lead singer of

Candlefire, Jinder has been described by Radio 1's Zane Lowe as "a significant new talent".

The special guest will be London-based singer/songwriter Lotte Mullan.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.

CANTERBURY LEISURE

Top African artists to play at Orange Street

WORLD-renowned artists Seckou Keita and Surahata Susso will be performing at Orange Street Music Venue on Thursday (Dec 4).

The concert is part of the monthly Global Boutique programme, organised with Music for Change.

Keita, from Senegal, is part of a new generation of emerging African musicians. He specialises in the kora, or African harp, and is touring the world with his band, the Seckou Keita Quartet.

The music starts at 9pm and tickets cost £8 on the door. For more information visit www.musicforchange.org.

Pupils ready to pull off a West End favourite

DRAMA students at St Edmund's School in Canterbury will bring the house down with popular comedy, Daisy Pulls It Off.

The award-winning West End favourite is an affectionate parody of life in a girls' boarding school of yesteryear. Upper sixth pupil Clara Gibson plays the lead role of Daisy Meredith.

The show runs at the school from Thursday (Dec 4) to Saturday (Dec 6), starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the school's events secretary on 01227 475600.

Rare live performance by punk rocker Childish

KENT artist, poet and songwriter Billy Childish will be giving a rare performance in Canterbury on Friday (Dec 3).

The punk rocker will be playing at The Farmhouse in Dover Street with his stripped-down band Nurse Julie and Wolf - The Musicians of the British Empire. He is celebrating the release of his latest album Thatcher's Children.

Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £10. The show is only for over-18s. Book online at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

Advice on dyslexia to be given at drop-in centre

FIND out more about dyslexia at a special drop-in centre being held in Canterbury this weekend.

Dyslexia East Kent Support is holding the event at Kingsmead Leisure Centre in Kingsmead Road, next to Sainsbury's, on Saturday. The drop-in centre will run from 10am to 12pm.

For more information call 0845 003 8979.

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My hero worship of Billy isn't just Childish

BY SIMON ROBINSON

CULT rocker Billy Childish is my hero – and he should be yours too.

Here are five reasons why you should cancel all plans you may have for this Friday and take in his performance with The Musicians of the British Empire at The Farmhouse in Canterbury instead:

1. The Chatham-born singer/artist/poet/filmmaker goes under the stage name of Wild Billy Childish, an effortlessly cool pseudonym.

If you or I attempted to adopt such a stage name it would come across as juvenile, pretentious, or worse-case scenario; both juvenile and pretentious. Billy, on the other hand, gets away with it.

2. Billy's gig wardrobe consists of military uniform seemingly lifted straight off the set of classic 60s war film Zulu.

Fellow band members Wolf and Julie also get in on the act, playing along with the Rourke's Drift dress-up before heading on to the stage.

Matching band outfits are nothing new but are often simply adopted as part of a cheap marketing gimmick – think the slick suits sported by The Hives, for instance – but with the Musicians of the British Empire, their get-up seems entirely fitting.

3. Musicians inspired by Billy Childish include late Nirvana frontman and grunge godfather Kurt Cobain, pop royalty Kylie Minogue and Jack and Meg White of The White Stripes fame, to name but a few. Here's your chance to see what these industry greats saw.

4. The music is raw, energetic and – rather importantly – very good. The stripped-down garage rock sound is timeless. Simple riffs and killer hooks provide the backdrop for Billy's no-



ICONIC: Nurse Julie and Wolf join Wild Billy Childish in Rourke's Drift dress-up as The Musicians of the British Empire

nonsense lyrics. Add the band's on-stage chemistry into the equation and you have a winner.

5. Billy does not care what you think of him. Nothing cements a man's status as cult hero more than his unequivocal desire to avoid such a tag. Ironic, don't you think?

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to Friday, commenting: "This is it."

"Artist, poet, punk rocker Billy Childish is hitting Canterbury town for a rare gig to celebrate the release of latest album Thatcher's Children, with his stripped down band of Nurse Julie and Wolf – The Musicians of the British Empire.

"The most prolific artist, poet and songwriter of his generation, and the shining jewel in Kent's cultural crown, this is not one to miss."

"This is the gig promised following The Musicians of The British Empire's unfortunate decision they had to make to pull out of Lounge On The Farm 2008."

Support on the night comes from one of the Medway Delta's garage bands, hand-picked by Billy himself – The Armitage Shanks.

Entry costs £10. Doors 8pm to 2am. To buy tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk/tickets_billychildish.htm

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Kayley performs the title track from her debut album Chasing Dreams



Hard rock band Tortilla Army perform and talk on The Ether



The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong - To fall with you (from Birchington)
2. D-FiNiTive - Space (from Tenterden)
3. Kayley Weller - Tonight is going to be our night (from Deal)
4. Ron Bowdery - The Ghostship in sea mist (from New Eltham)
5. Shotgun Junky - Destiny (Maidstone)

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Tasty rustic treats are in store at restaurant

ITALIAN restaurant Strada has launched its new winter menu.

The eatery on Sun Street, in Canterbury city centre, has prepared new dishes alongside its famous hand-spun pizzas, pasta and risotto dishes.

New additions include Ribollita, a rustic hearty Tuscan soup for a starter and Saltimbocca di Maiale – fillet of pork with sage and prosciutto.

For more details see the restaurant's website at www.strada.co.uk.

Farm invites you to join the festive celebrations

THIS Friday, Chalkpit Farm Rural Shopping is hosting a night of Christmas delights and pampering.

With lights on the Christmas tree, choirs singing, food, drink, shopping and pampering, forget all the doom and gloom and come along for a Christmas treat. All the shops will be open from 9am until 9pm.

The centre is based on Adisham Road in Bekebourne – and close to Howletts Wild Animal Park.

Feel good with mother's fine foods for children

EAT, drink and meet Mama Christmas at Chalkpit Farm this Friday.

The new Mama Feelgoods Fine Food store will be holding special events from 3pm including, bring the kids to meet Mama Christmas, hamper wrapping, and Christmas food tasting.

Refreshments will be available all evening at the Mama Feelgoods Coffee Shop.

Feel truly pampered on an evening of relaxation

CHALKPIT Farm's All Nine Maternity and Baby is host to a pamper evening, and reminds customers you don't have to be pregnant to be pampered.

Treatments are available from Maxine and Karen from Woodlands Hair and Beauty.

Pop in for a mini manicure, neck back and shoulder massage, Indian head massage, waxing treatments or a pregnancy massage.

Fifteen minute taster treatments are only £5. Pre booking is advisable, call 01227 713371.

Delightful decorations to glitter in your home

SPARKLE this Christmas. Essentially Hops at Chalkpit Farm has a wonderful selection of Christmas decorations to tempt you.

Design and order your handmade door wreath or purchase one from its ready-made collection.

Table decorations, candles, and Christmas Trees, tree decorations, gifts and flower arrangements, and don't forget your English holly and mistletoe.

To help in your decision making sip on a glass of mulled wine and graze upon a mince pie.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART
More 4, 8.30pm, weeknights
HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU
BBC One, 9pm, Friday

■ BY TOM BETTS

AS the presidency of George W Bush enters its final days, I think it's fair to say that there won't be many who mourn the end of his time in office too much.

Some are already calling the Texan 'the worst president ever', but for comedians, satirists and impressionists everywhere, the final decline of Dubya will prove a real loss.

For Jon Stewart, current king of the American TV schedules, it will be a sad day indeed.

The golden boy of liberal America has long since overtaken the likes of Letterman and Leno in his lampooning of the president.

Meanwhile, as the man revered by so many for sticking it to Dubya, he's even scored a role hosting Oscars night, and the keys to a million educated female hearts into the bargain.

The Daily Show has now been on our screens for some considerable time, too, not that you would know it thanks to criminal under-promotion.

More 4 bagged it up and stuck it on for us all to wonder at, but the show faces a big challenge with the impending arrival of Barack Obama in the Oval Office.

It could be seen as party-poopng if the jokes start flying at the expense of the man many regard as the chosen one, especially as, being the first black president, he looks set to enjoy a post-election honeymoon period most politicians would kill for.

In a way, Stewart has much in common with the team of Have I Got



VOTE-WINNER: More 4's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart is one of television's hidden gems

News For You, back on BBC One for series number 36. In these times of British voter apathy and low turnout, the likes of Ian Hislop and Paul Merton perhaps form as effective an opposition as the shadow cabinet, for half an hour a week at least.

But while HIGNFY is still a mainstay of the schedules – and deservedly so – is it not about time they found a regular presenter?

With Boris Johnson now in what passes for serious mode, he won't be back for a guest host slot and for every good host, like Alexander Armstrong, there's an embarrassing turn by Anne Widdecombe or Joan Collins.

Not that any of this has blunted the tongues of Ian Hislop or Paul Merton, who remain as sharp as they have ever been.

Politics – it's the new rock'n'roll. Haven't you heard?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A PASSION packed love affair gives you a sexy glow that makes friends, family and fellow workers sit up and take notice. Nothing puts a spring in your step like love. An unexpected expense could force you to cancel arrangements, but you won't let it get you down for long.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A BURNING desire to travel may prompt you to book a trip. If you're single, you're sure to find romance on this journey. You could be drawn to someone who is much older or younger than you. This age difference seems to enhance your relationship, not detract from it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR job puts you in touch with some highly creative people. Being around writers, painters, or actors may inspire you to begin an art project. Your imagination is your most precious treasure. If you stick to this path, you might even be able to sell your work for a handsome profit.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU could get some good news regarding a female friend or relative. A fun night on the town will let you forget all of the frustrations that have been building for the past few weeks. An official from a humanitarian organisation may offer to write you a recommendation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

AN old friendship could blossom into new romance with very little encouragement. You're not sure why you've developed such a strong desire for the person in question. Perhaps you're getting tired of the people you usually fall for and fancy something a little different.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

MONEY from an inheritance or legal settlement gives you a chance to make home improvements. If you don't own a home, think about buying one. Although you hate being tied down it's usually a good idea to have a secure base. A close friend or partner could lose their job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU yearn to go on an overseas journey with your lover, or in search of a lover. Exotic surroundings will fan the flames of your mutual passion. Don't impose your family's values on your beloved. Just because you were raised to think a certain way doesn't mean it's right.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

NORMALLY you don't care much about your personal presentation or what you wear, but this week you'll want to make a good impression on a potential employer. If you look the part of a professional, you'll be more likely to land a well paid position.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

CAREER concerns put you in the spotlight, which is exactly where you like to be. Being offered a plum position is proof your boss is impressed with your talent. It may be necessary to train with someone older as a means to learn the business from the ground up.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

Someone close gives you the drive to go back to school. Learning a foreign language or taking up new technological skills will be stimulating and frustrating. Stick with it, all good things take time and perseverance. A legal decision could come as an utter surprise.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

HOME is where the heart is. Entertaining friends and family brings out the best in you. You're the type of host who is able to let go and have a good time after your guests arrive. That's probably why your parties are so successful. Resist the urge to tell a colleague what you really think.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

THIS is a great time for learning and studying. If you want to boost your qualification apply for a place on a training course now, while the stars are behind you. Complicated technology has a nasty way of breaking down just when you need it most. Be sure to back up your files.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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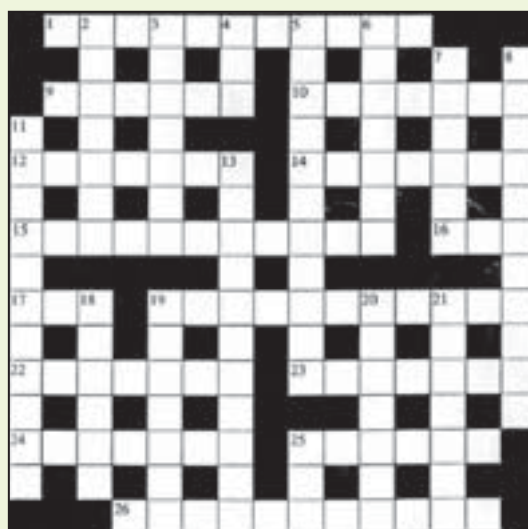


CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Prudish tract ladies removed (6-5)
 - 9 Trip up giving a shout of pain when it has not been cultivated (6)
 - 10 Eat another loaf or scone (7)
 - 12 Get back to put the lid on again (7)
 - 14 Resort to drugs singularly and be ruined (2,2,3)
 - 15 Bar-room dart damaged cap (11)
 - 16 Service long way back (1,1,1)
 - 17 Title of man in middle of vice squad (3)
 - 19 Arrangement by priest and choir before written records (11)
 - 22 King entered vessel put in order (5,2)
 - 23 Intellect prepared having fixed attitude (7)
 - 24 Alan's replacing silver put into pasta! (7)
 - 25 Partly crazy, got ecstatic with cell (6)
 - 26 Founding charitable organisation (11)
- DOWN**
- 2 Melted tarmac runs under vehicle (7)
 - 3 Matters been deposited by rivers (7)
 - 4 Pull westwards (3)
 - 5 Eye defect, one brand (11)
 - 6 Previous one with lieutenant Edward had been placed in a position of respect (7)
 - 7 Jay ruined spare porcelain (6)
 - 8 Fierce cat, it destroyed document (11)
 - 11 Urgent summons to action on the clarion? (7-4)
 - 13 Tree from India? (6,5)
 - 18 Feeling swell when at sea? (6)
 - 19 Penny put a cloth on model (7)
 - 20 Drunk performing inside before the end of the day (7)
 - 21 Father leaves French city with German fellow to get Italian dish (7)
 - 25 Fuzz, it covers spot (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Compatible (4-7)
- 9 Seized (6)
- 10 Flickering (7)
- 12 Aperture (7)
- 14 Racing (7)
- 15 Went ahead of one's turn (5-6)
- 16 Yea (3)
- 17 Ovum (3)
- 19 Youngster fond of pop-music (5-6)
- 22 Phoenix's state (7)
- 23 Extremely reckless (7)
- 24 Old shoe fastening (7)
- 25 Smooth stone (6)
- 26 January 1st (3,5,3)

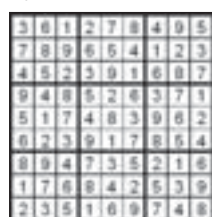
DOWN

- 2 Elusive (7)
- 3 Brown coal (7)
- 4 Astern (3)
- 5 Green pigment of plants (11)
- 6 Decorated with white fur (7)
- 7 Confirm the truth (6)
- 8 With a strong desire to act (5-6)
- 11 Capable of being overcome (11)
- 13 Luxuriantly (11)
- 18 Merrymaking (6)
- 19 Metrical foot (7)
- 20 Passenger-carrier (7)
- 21 Kneecap (3)
- 25 Vegetable (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No64

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No64

ACROSS: 1 Jingoistic 6 Scow 9 Comet 10 Calm 11 Saki 13 Ladies-in-waiting 14 Radiance 16 Advice 18 Floppy 19 Shoulder 22 Religious orders 24 Lobe 25 Limb 26 Exist 27 Gaga 28 Interstate. **DOWN:** 1 Jocular 2 Nomad 3 On the rampage 4 Succinct 5 In-laws 7 Clarified 8 Wriggle 12 Headquarters 15 Doodlebug 17 Chasuble 18 Foreleg 20 Rosette 21 Potion 23 Eliza.

QUICK SOLUTION No65

ACROSS: 1 Well-matched 9 Caught Trochee 20 Omnibus 21 Pate 25 Pea Conquerable 13 Exuberantly 18 Gaily 19 Ermined 7 Verily 8 Stage-struck 11 Evasive 3 Lignite 4 Art 5 Chlorophyll 6 Pebble 26 New Years Day 29 Latchet 25 per 22 Arizona 23 Lunatic 24 Latchet 25 Queen-jumped 16 Yes 17 Egg 19 Teeny-bop 10 Lament 12 Office 14 Running 15

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

FOUR CHRISTMASES (12A)



Be prepared for a crazy Christmas. Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn star as a couple whose plans for an exotic Christmas are thrown into disarray when the airport becomes fog-bound. Instead, they find themselves forced to attend four separate family celebrations on the same day.

BODY OF LIES (15)



A dramatic thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio as a CIA agent who has tracked a suspected terrorist in Jordan. Now he must trust those he feels will deceive him to get the job done. Also starring Russell Crowe and directed by Ridley Scott, Body of Lies is a tense thriller.

CHOKE (18)



From maverick author Chuck Palahniuk (Fight Club) and new writer-director Clark Gregg comes the subversively comedic tale of Victor Mancini, con artist, sex addict, colonial village re-enactor, angst-filled son, serial restaurant choker – and unsuspecting romantic anti-hero for our unsettling times.

Angelina's change of heart

■ BY JULIA HUNT
AND KATE WHITING

ANGELINA Jolie is one of the most distinguished actresses of her generation.

She embodies the grace and beauty of the old-style Hollywood belles as well as being an earth mother to her six children and devoted partner of actor Brad Pitt.

The 33-year-old seems to play each role – in life and on the big screen – with deft aplomb, ensuring that what is private remains private, but giving her all to each character she plays.

She becomes so embroiled in each performance, in fact, that when she first read the script for her latest role, as single mother Christine Collins in Changeling, she turned it down.

Upsetting

"When I read the script, I could not put it down and then I said 'No'. Immediately. I did not want to go near this project because it was too upsetting.

"But then I couldn't stop talking about her," Angelina, elegant in grey, explains.

"I found myself sitting with people and wanting them to know about this extraordinary woman that you wouldn't believe what happened to her and what these people did to her."

Changeling, the latest work from legendary actor-turned-director Clint Eastwood, tells the story of Christine, whose son Walter disappears without a trace in 1928 Los Angeles.

Five months later, a child who claims to be her son is returned by police, who are keen to win credit for a job well done.

Dazzled by flashbulbs and overwhelmed by reporters, Christine agrees to take the boy home, even



RETHINK: Angelina Jolie first turned down the role of Christine Collins in Changeling

though she knows it is not her son.

Her campaign to find the real Walter continues, but in Prohibition-era LA, women don't stand up to the system and she is sent to a mental institution.

Christine's long battle against the corrupt system eventually changed the course of the city's history.

"I found it very inspiring in the end," Angelina continues.

"It became a story about democracy in action, a story about justice, about suffering a great loss

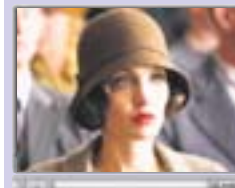
and fighting through it and making a change for the future, for other people and questioning government and the police.

"Christine had to walk a very fine line and then, when she did speak out, they locked her in an institution, so she had this real struggle to try to behave with these corrupt people."

Angelina gave birth to twins in July this year, and they are apparently asleep in her room at London's Claridge's when we

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meet. Knox and Vivienne are the latest additions to her and Brad's brood but were still just a glint in their mother's eye while she was filming.

The actress says that her other children – Maddox, seven, Pax, four, Zahara, two – who were all adopted – and two-year-old Shiloh, her first child with Brad, were a comfort to her during the harrowing shoot.

"I had my kids with me as much as possible at lunch and after doing a day at work I would run home," she reveals.

"I just wanted to be silly. It was so emotional that I found myself being really goofy. I was so happy that I knew where my kids were and they were OK."

For an actress at the top of her game, it seems unusual, then, that Angelina plans to bow out of the business. But her family clearly comes first.

"I'm not making some big retirement announcement, but I have a big family and I have a lot of responsibility at home.

"Maybe I'll make a film once a year and then maybe once every two years, and then maybe eventually I'll stop."



CHANGELING
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In search of the real Holland

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

I'D LIKE to extend my gratitude to the rowdy group of English tourists who accompanied me on my flight to Amsterdam.

Had it not been for their oh-so-stereotypical Brits abroad 'banter' throughout the entire one-hour journey, I may have been tempted to spend another weekend in the Dutch capital rather than continue on to The Hague as planned.

Luckily, the middle-aged mob's mantra – smoking cannabis and making countless sorties into the red-light district – served only to reinforce my desire to search out a deeper, truer side of Holland.

And that's what I found in The Hague.

The country's third-largest city, known by its inhabitants as Den Haag, provided the backdrop for a perfect city break.

The good people at the Dutch and The Hague tourist boards laid on a packed programme of culture, fine eating, contemporary Brazilian dance/puppetry and drunken dancing on a bar (although this last activity was not originally part of the schedule).

Here's how I spent my time:

FRIDAY: Having arrived in Holland shortly after 11am, less than 30 minutes later we pulled into The Hague Central Station and set off on foot for our hotel, which was conveniently placed near a thriving district of high-street shops, intimate boutiques and restaurants.

Having settled in, we made our way via tram to our first tourist destination, the miniature world of Madurodam.

The outdoor visitor attraction plays home to dozens of meticulously accurate replicas of the area's most recognisable landmarks.

Dinner was taken at the oriental-styled Restaurant Puck, which served up an array of modern fish and meat dishes, all of which was



DONE AMSTERDAM? If so, visit The Hague, which offers superb museums, galleries and a lively bar and restaurant scene

cooked up in the busy, open-view kitchen.

SATURDAY: Having taken in a range of modern art at the Gemeentemuseum we were then given the chance to take in some Dutch classics at the Mauritshuis, Holland's Royal Picture Gallery.

The compact museum boasts priceless works from the likes of Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer, including the latter's most famous piece, *Girl With A Pearl Earring*.

While the modern art at our first stop was 'interesting', it's hard to gaze upon a bundle of screwed-up paper or two thick, parallel lines on a white canvas with the same admiration as a 300-year-old masterpiece.

With lunchtime fast approaching, we made our way to the delightfully regal Hotel Des Indes for high tea.

Next on the agenda was a whistle-stop tour of The Hague, taking in the city's most prominent buildings.

Highlights included Queen Beatrix's Paleis Noordeinde (official work palace) and the beautiful Binnenhof buildings, which house the Dutch parliament.

The tour was wrapped up with a traditional bite to eat – raw herring with onions. Despite being not much of a fish fan, the Dutch delicacy went down well.

We spent our evening at the Candance Festival taking in a Brazilian contemporary dance/puppetry show, which was less pretentious than the description implies.

The plot loosely centred on the Wizard of Oz, complete with ruby-red slippers and a 6ft foam puppet of the Wicked Witch. Don't ask.

Drinks were then taken at a cosmopolitan pub, where end-of-the-night dancing on the bar seemed like a good idea at the time.

SUNDAY: Hangover. Breakfast. Bus ride to the historic city of Delft. With its ancient canals, churches and city walls, it gives visitors a chance to take in Holland of old.

The 13th-century city, the birthplace of painter Johannes Vermeer, boasts the wondrously-named Oude Kerk (old church) and Nieuwe Kerk (new church), open market-place and miles of peaceful canals.

It proved the ideal place to wind down from a long weekend.

FACT FILE: THE HAGUE



Travel details

From London to Amsterdam, KLM operates up to 16 routes a day between London Heathrow and London City Airport. Fares start at £118 per person return, including taxes.

For more information and to book, log on to www.klm.com, phone 08705 074 074, or visit your local travel agent.

From London Gatwick to Amsterdam, British Airways operates up to five flights per day.

Fares start at £100 per person return. For more information and to book, log on to www.britishairways.com, phone 0844 493 0787, or visit your local travel agent.

From Amsterdam Airport Schiphol you can take the train to The Hague Central Station; direct trains depart every 30 minutes with a journey time of 31 minutes.

Cost of one-way ticket is 7.30 euros.

Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions

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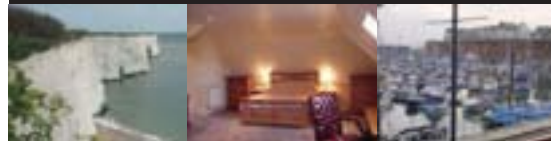
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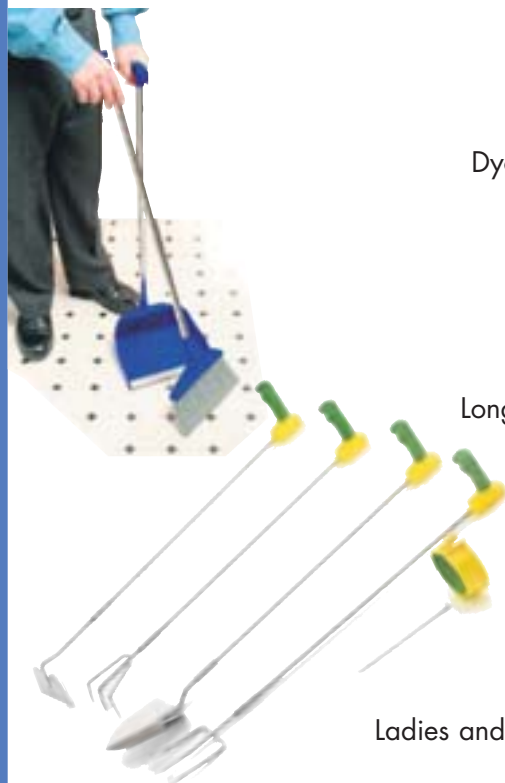
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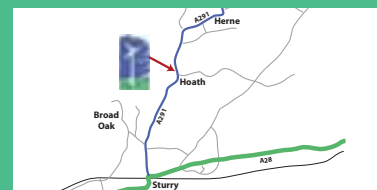


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PROPERTY NEWS

Better news for the first-timers

THE head of a firm specialising in working with first-time buyers says the prospect for the market is improving.

Paul Holmes, chief executive of First-rung, claimed the falling prices of homes meant that more and more properties were coming within the reach of buyers.

However, he added that those who are looking to get on the housing ladder need to ensure their jobs are safe – and will need a larger deposit than previously of about 15 to 20 per cent.

“The good news is that while they [first-time buyers] are saving up for the deposit, house prices will continue to fall and come more in line with affordability and their expectations,” said Mr Holmes.

But he added the first stage for newcomers to the market would be them having to save “furiously” for the deposit because of its increase since the credit crunch took hold.



Agents demand action from top

ESTATE agents are calling on the Government to inject some life into the housing market by taking action to help the beleaguered business.

A poll by the National Association of Estate Agents showed 54 per cent had no confidence in the Government, and the body is calling for more interest rate cuts and a suspension of stamp duty.

The most recent findings when it comes to property analysis have prompted the call.

The number of sales per agent was up from six to seven – still historically low – and the number of first-time buyers taking a part in the market increased.

However, there was a seven per cent fall in the number of house-hunters on estate agents' books to 196.

Prices dive slowing

THE rate at which house prices are falling eased in November, according to analysts.

The average cost of a home dropped by just 0.4 per cent during the month, compared with a slide of 1.3 per cent during October, according to the Nationwide Building Society.



HOPEFUL: As sellers are becoming more realistic about the new value of their homes, vendors and surveyors are anticipating a genuine improvement in market conditions

Reality check brings optimism to market

■ BY NICK AMES

LEVELS of home-buying are still falling, but estate agents claim that they are seeing some early positive signs of recovery in the property market.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (Rics) market survey for October points to a slight upturn in prices – although that is from what was an extreme low.

The main factor found to be depressing prices was the large stock of unsold properties and limited numbers of buyers – but not a surge in forced selling, as a high number of recession-fuelled repossessions has yet to feed into the market.

The number of completed sales per surveyor was also down.

But the feeling of hope across the market is

improving, with more analysts expecting an upturn than had a positive outlook at the start of the autumn.

On average the number of sales per surveyor fell from 11.5 to 10.9 – the lowest on record since 1978 and a fall of 53.6 per cent on a year ago.

Surveyors had on average 80.7 properties on their books.

Rics spokesman Ian Perry said: “The interest rate cut should certainly help support the market now lenders have agreed to pass on the reduction to borrowers.

“Even so, the general lack of mortgage finance remains a major blockage in the housing market for a large majority of would-be buyers.”

Along with the two per cent drop in interest rates in two months, surveyors did see some glimmer of hope.

Twenty per cent more chartered surveyors expect an upturn in sales over the next three months, a rise from just four per cent in September.

The increase in optimism is reflected in part by an increasing trend of vendors dropping asking prices, but it may also be a sign there are expectations of a jump in the number of repossessions.

“Many vendors have finally started to accept current market conditions and are dropping their asking prices to achieve a sale,” Mr Perry said.

“Sales should increase in the coming months as more and more sellers understand greater realism is the only way to make that long-desired move.”

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MOTORS NEWS



Octavia's given facelift to make it even better

SKODA is launching a revised Octavia in January 2009, with an extensive facelift, bringing the Czech marque's best-seller into line with the rest of the current range.

Prices of the new Octavia represent an average increase of £473 for the Octavia Hatch and £478 for the Octavia Estate.

Changes include dynamic, sweeping headlights and complimentary front fog lights, new foldable door mirrors and body coloured bumpers and side mouldings, plus a new look interior with better steering wheels, sound systems and upholstery.

A new 1.4 TSI 122bhp engine replaces the current 1.6 FSI 115bhp and a 2.0 FSI 200bhp engine with DSG transmission will be introduced on the Octavia vRS.



Megane awarded Euro NCAP safety award

RENAULT'S latest Megane is its 11th model to earn the Euro NCAP five-star crash test rating.

Safety kit includes: twin side-impact sensors, an innovation that debuted with Laguna III; six airbags, including two twin-chamber thorax/groin airbags; the Renault System for Restraint and Protection, which combines pretensioners and load limiters with twin-stage dual-chamber adaptive front airbags; new-generation headrests; and ABS and Emergency Brake Distribution come as standard.

Car chief makes a call for Government lifeline

CARMAKERS need Government help to mitigate the impact of a downturn that "looks certain to get worse before it gets better", says a car chief.

It was "appropriate and necessary" for the Government to support the industry, added Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders president Graham Smith.

UK support was needed over and above the proposed 40 billion euro loan package which may soon be agreed by European finance ministers.

"We must collaborate nationally to compete internationally," said Mr Smith. "We have asked for the finance divisions of vehicle manufacturers to get access to the same special liquidity arrangements as are now available to the banks. This access to finance and credit will help to boost demand and support our retail and distribution operations."



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Despite its silly name Kia's Ceed is a serious threat to Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot, particularly with the offer of a 100,000-mile/seven-year warranty

Sowing a Ceed of doubt in the minds of Ford & Co

KIA'S Ceed hints at why Ford, the original blue-collar brand, is trying to don a white collar.

Okay, Ceed is one of the sillier model names on the market, but nobody is laughing at the headquarters of traditional mainstream car-makers like Ford, Vauxhall or Peugeot.

This five-door Ford Focus rival looks good, feels European, is priced keenly and comes with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty – unprecedented and still unchallenged on the UK market.

It still cannot quite match the Ford dynamically, but the gap is not so great; the interior of the Kia concedes little, while some drivers might prefer its more pliant ride.

The big question for would-be owners though is: which engine? Ceed prices start at £11,270 in supermini territory rather than Focus class, but that buys the 1.4-litre petrol 'cooking' version.

Most buyers will opt instead for a 1.6 petrol (from £11,820) or 1.6 diesel (from £12,570), but it is still a tough call because the old argument that the petrol will be more refined is undermined by the fact that Kia's 1.6 unit is only

ROAD TEST KIA CEED

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

average on that front, while its two diesel sisters are silky for this class.

You pay more upfront for the diesels though and need to be confident of covering enough miles to enable the greater economy to recoup that extra cash.

There is less to ponder about the interior; after a previous generation Kia Rio – the car it replaced effectively, since the current Rio is closer to supermini class – this is a quantum leap in quality and comfort, with a decent built-in CD/audio system and steering wheel controls now arranged in the normal indicators-to-the-left 'European' way.

Try to press on with the Ceed and the forgiving suspension allows it to pitch more than a Focus or Vauxhall Astra, though it is never lacks grip or tests confidence.

If this sounds like a deal-breaker though, try the more tautly arranged three-door Procede version.

There is also a third family member worth considering – the capacious and practical Ceed SW estate.

No wonder Ford & Co are worried.

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

DISTINCTIVE MIDI-MPVs

IN 1997, Renault tried a bit of lateral thinking with the 'people carrier' concept it pioneered with the Espacé and came up with the 'midi' or 'compact' MPV (multi-purpose vehicle). The result was the original five-seat Scenic, the blueprint for even more vehicles than the original Espacé inspired, and the impetus for waves of tall, space efficient 'MPV styling' across the whole car market. As one of the new car market's boom sectors over the past few years, it means there is also plenty of choice for user car buyers.

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FIAT MULTIPLA



EARNING top marks with the motoring press for originality when it arrived in 2000, the original Multipla proved simply too wacky looking to generate the sales it deserved. A facelift made it more visually acceptable and its practical qualities began to shine. Relatively compact, it allows six to be seated comfortably and there is plenty of stowage space.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO



NO apologies for including the Picasso – it quickly trumped Renault's pioneering Scenic to become the best-seller in the new sector. It's only a five-seater, but the 'jelly mould design' smoothes the edges of a commodious and flexibly equipped box. The range features excellent turbodiesels and has a good reliability record. Plenty of choice on the used market too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HONDA FR-V



THOUGH late into this sector, Honda had time to review the market and decided that Fiat got it right with the Multipla. So the FR-V is another short, wide six-seater with two rows of seats, but not as roomy as the Fiat. Buyers like the peace of mind Honda's engineering gives and how the dash-mounted gearshift creates room in front.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, gk02 pec, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, climate control, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, blue, 58000 miles, £4995, Greens Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £3950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, red label auto, 2001, biemh silver with black leather, 50000 miles, £4450, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, 1316mo, mot—1/04/08 good runner, green, miles, £6950, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 735i AUTO, 2002, oxford green metallic with beige nappa exclusive, 79000 miles, £11950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

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CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTZ 2.0, gk08ow, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £2295, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v6 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light side gr, 10577 miles, £19950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d lx white pas 43,000 miles fish lined, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i Cool 3dr, 2007, 1.4i cool 3dr hatch, red, 3525 miles, £2995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 2.2 HDI exclusive 5dr, 2007, 2.2 hdi exclusive 5dr diesel estate, blue, 100 miles, £1995, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 3dr, 2006, 1.0i vibe 3dr hatch, red, 3525 miles, £2995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.1i Cool 5dr, 2007, 1.1i cool 5dr hatch special edition, passion red, 7500 miles, £2495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6HDI 16v VTR Plus 5dr EGS, 1.6hdi 16v vtr plus 5dr egs diesel hatch, islandic grey, 1000 miles, £13495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C5, Design, g07zua, air conditioning, alarm, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, blue, 18 miles, £9995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C8, 2.0 HDI 16V SX 5dr [136], 2007, 2.0 hdi 16v sx 5dr [136] diesel estate, silver, 8995 miles, £15995, 15t long, awning, shower, portalo, stabilising bar very good condition. 8995 ONO tel: 07725 95321

DISPATCH, 2.0 HDI Enterprise Van 900Kg, 2005, 2.0 hdi enterprise van 900kg diesel, silver, 42190 miles, £5495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

NEMO, 1.4 HDI X [SLD], 2008, 1.4 hdi x [sls] diesel, white, 1000 miles, £7495, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

RELAY, 2.2 HDI H1 Van 100ps, 2007, 2.2 hdi h1 van 100ps 30.11 diesel, white, 4500 miles, £7995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

SAXO, 1.4i SX 3dr Auto, 1999, 1.4i sx 3dr auto hatch, polar white, 40669 miles, £1795, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

XSARA, LX DIESEL, 2002, met red, 87186 miles, £3395, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, active 1.2, 2003, silver, 45000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SCUDO EL, 05 2000, 2.0 jtd 3 seats twin doors, white, 100 miles, £2400, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BRAVO 100 SX, 2001 "y", a medium sized car with a 1.6 engine, pas c/c/hist very reasonably priced. a 3 month warranty is offered on the screen price and we will take your old car in part exchange. a new mot test will be included, blue, 75,000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74,000 miles, Dvas 8995 now £395, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2.0 16v, 1995, red, 72451 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MAREA, 120 100 SX Weekend, 1998, red, 106000 miles, £995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PANDA, Active 5dr, eo04ew, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear spoiler, abs, air bag, power steering, electric front windows, cd player, blue, 5000 miles, £3995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI Style 5dr (2007 -), 29/09/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering electric windows, silver, 4694 miles, £3500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2004, panther black, 35600 miles, £3995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr, ak08tp, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, insurance group:7, black, 16 miles, £11990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCI Plus 5dr (2005 -), 31/01/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 6747 miles, £10000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 1.8 TDCI Zetec 5dr [6] (2006 -), 01/03/2008, silver, 13299 miles, £15500, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KA, Zetec Climate, 2008, moonstid silver, 0 miles, £6995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCI Titanium 5dr [6] (2007 -), 17/12/2007, blue, 7709 miles, £18000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 826 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 TDCI LX 5dr [5] (2006 - 2008), 05/03/2008, silver, 15159 miles, £14000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, High Roof Van TDCI 115PS, bt56ye, warranty, white, 39999 miles, £13490, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC 5 DOOR, 30/06/2005, cd player driver airbag power steering electric windows, silver, 22955 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, gu08hp, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, rear headrests, folding rear seats, head restraints, parking sensor, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, front windows, air conditioning, blue, 2000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

COUPE, SE 1975cc 3 door, 2006, cd player air conditioning alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, silver, 17200 miles, £7995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

GETZ, CDX 5dr, cv08avc, blue, 3000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MATRIX, 1.6 GSi 5dr Auto, 10/05/2006, red, 36597 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

XJ V8, 4.0 sovereign lwb, 2002, seafrost blue met with catkin leather interior, 71000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 18000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI GS 5dr, g107jwp, air-conditioning, abs + ebd, air cd player, insurance group:10, red, 17900 miles, £9994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SORENTO, XS 2.5, g106vxc, finished in blue with interior, blue, 16000 miles, £10985, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 2.5P Hard Top, e611vvg, tow pack, radio cassette, power steering, 4x4, road tax (p1g) is £185 per year on this vehicle, blue, 57000 miles, £4995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 4480314, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, side steps, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, alloy wheels, 4x4, black, 38000 miles, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 TDI County Station Wagon, 10941054, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, tow pack, side steps, rear wash/wipe, sunroof, 4x4, road tax (p1g) is £185 per year on this vehicle, nagra grey metallic, 137000 miles, £7295, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA, 56, 2005, blue metallic, 19299 miles, £4945, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

C CLASS, C180K Avantgarde SE, 47633, alloy wheels, cubanite silver, 14000 miles, £17995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, MG TF LE500 Special Edition 135, 58, petrol, orange, 10 miles, £16398, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £3995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 295554 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.5 Sport, 2004, black, miles, £6995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

MICRA, 1.2 SE Automatic, 2004, techno grey, 22500 miles, £4995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

106, independence, 2001, met green, 28000 miles, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with black leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 Panache LD Edn Hatchback 3d 1144cc, 1730th, new mot good 1st car, red, miles, £895.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

CLIO, Privilege, feb 06, 5 doors, automatic, hatchback, petrol, 13, 075 miles, metallic grey, 2 owners. 3rd point rear seat belts, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, folding rear seats, front electric windows, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, lumbar support, pas, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear electric windows, rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, service indicator, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, computer/full service Renault history/yet service 27/10/08, 2 months tax, insurance group 6, grey, £7250, KENT, 01843555186 (PRIVATE)

ROVER

200, 216 CABRIOLET, 1997, grey, 9 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

25, IMPRES, 1, gmf04fh, finished in starlight silver with grey interior, silver, 35000 miles, £3899, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

400, 2.0 16v Si Hatchback 5d 1994cc, 1999, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, 8 air bag, radio cassette, air conditioning, 5 speed gearbox, metallic red, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE CAR, 03 2000, 2.0 gl air/con elec windows 80,000 miles blue fish no vat, £1495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE CAR, 03 2000, 2.0 gl air/con elec windows 80,000 miles blue fish no vat, £1495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SKODA

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE CAR, 03 2000, 2.0 gl air/con elec windows 80,000 miles blue fish no vat, £1495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, wrx turbo, 2004, red, 38000 miles, £10995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SWIFT, 2008, cosmic black, 1750 miles, £7995, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

AYGO, 1.0 VVT-i + 3dr, 2006, 1.0 vvt-i + 3dr hatch, grey, 14726 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA, 1199cc 5 door Enjoy, 2001, history check, 76350 miles, £2595, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

CADDY, C20 SDI, lb05kfl, side load door, bulkhead, air bag, colour coded body, air bag, abs, traction control, remote central locking, ply-lined, 16" alloys, blue, 30000 miles, £5195, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 vr6, 1998, black, 93000 miles, £2500, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

POL0, 1.4 CL Hatchback 3dr, Vr1999, a/con pas electric windows electric mirrors radio/cd player, bright red, £3,000 miles, £2395, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

LUP0, E 3dr, g154uh, power steering, metallic paintwork, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, aluminium silver, 27000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

TRANSPORTER, xv55vlu, white, 29000 miles, £7000, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

VOLVO

S80, 2.4 D5 SE Saloon 4d 2401cc (2002), 02, full leather fully loaded, gold, miles, £5750, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

V70, 2.4 (140 bhp) SE Estate 5d 2435cc (2000), 51, blue, miles, £3899.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

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Senior & General Appointments 38-42

Public Notices 41

Area Fundraising Manager

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- A good team player

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For an informal discussion please contact Sue Piper 01795 845245. For an application pack please visit www.demelza.org.uk or contact our recruitment line on 01795 845295.

Closing Date: 9th December, 2008

An Enhanced Disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant. Demelza House is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED

Hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks)

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The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

For more information and an application form please contact:

Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 12th December 2008

Interviews: Week beginning 15th December 2008



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The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP



Managing Director's Personal Assistant

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Our Managing Director is looking for an experienced Personal Assistant with a meticulous approach who is used to exercising confidentiality and diplomacy.

You will be a good communicator, capable of working on your own initiative. You should have experience of managing diaries, maintaining records as well as arranging and assisting at meetings, responding to correspondence, dealing with telephone calls and enquiries, as well as experience of preparing agendas for meetings. You will also be responsible for receiving visitors and dealing with all enquiries about Ashford's Future at first point of contact.

For an informal discussion please contact Judith Armit on 01233 330811.

Alternatively for an application form and further details, please send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to:

Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

or e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

Closing date: 5 December 2008.

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Closing date: 15th December 2008.

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Contact: Mrs Julie Allen - julie.allen@nhs.net

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- Nursery assistants
- Deputy manager
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We are looking for people who can take initiative and work both independently and as part of a team. All applications are welcome. Salary equivalent pt 8-12 on Kent Scheme. 14K pro rata for 40 hours a week term time only. The successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to our HR Department at jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk or our address as above

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone no: 01843 598550 or email to address above.

We look forward to hearing from you.
The closing date for post: Thursday, 11th December 2008

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Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 3.5
Location: Chatham
Ref: 767-ECC644
Closing date: 04/12/08

Job Title: Secretary to Head of IM&T

Salary: £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 37.5
Location: Trinity House, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH228
Closing date: 05/12/08

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Job Title: Community Health Nurse

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH226
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Community Health Nurse (School Nursing)

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 30
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH227
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Staff Nurse

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Faversham Cottage Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH229
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Nurse Practitioner MIU

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH230
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Clinical Nurse Specialist x 3

Salary: £29,091 - £38,385
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Protea House, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC645
Closing date: 11/12/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Job Title: Highly Specialist Obesity Dietitian

Salary: £29,091 to £38,385 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sittingbourne Research Centre
Ref: 767-ASH191
Closing date: 03/12/08

Job Title: Prescribing Project Dietitian

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH232
Closing date: 08/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)

Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: QVMH, Herne Bay & Local Primary Schools, Thanet
Ref: 767-ECC637
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Language Unit & Early Years)

Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Laleham Gap School & Canterbury Health Centre
Ref: 767-ECC638
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Thanet Schools Team)

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC635
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)

Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable Health Centre & Local Primary Schools
Ref: 767-ECC639
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC634
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)

Salary: £29,091 - £38,385
Band: 7
Hours: 26.25
Location: Canterbury & Faversham Schools
Ref: 767-ECC631
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Early Years)

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 18.75
Location: Seashells Children's Centre, Sheerness
Ref: 767-ECC632
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (ASD/Secondary School Service)

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury
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Closing date: 16/12/08

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Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering

Ref 08/153

9.25 hours per week, salary starting from 18,963 pro rata per annum

Skills for Life Initial Assessor

Ref 08/154

18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Cleaning Coordinator

Ref CLC1

37 hours per week, salary starting from £16,914 per annum.

4 week shift pattern – 3 weeks nights and 1 week of days

Assistant Cleaning Coordinator

Ref ACC1

37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum (nights)

Supply NVQ Assessors in Early Years

Ref S/ASSIEY

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 – £26,232 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th December 2008 at 12 noon



CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



Leading Kent Young People's Charity
seeks to appoint a
FUNDING & BUSINESS MANAGER
£27,000 – £31,500 pa

Never before have children and young people been so much in the spotlight. This is a really exciting time to join Kent Youth – a long established and well respected countywide charity working for children and young people. This new senior post based in Medway will lead on securing funding, manage the charity's business, review our brand and drive our 75th anniversary year of fundraising in 2011-12. Reporting to the Director as well as working with the Trustee Board, this is a great opportunity from someone with relevant experience in the charity, private or public sectors to influence and lead the future of Kent Youth.

Email graham@kent youth.org for a candidate pack.
Closing Date: 8th Dec 08 Interviews: 15th Dec 08
For an informal discussion, please call Graham Clewes on 01634 281841
Charity No.1063975
Company No.3328962 **www.kentyouth.org**

The Towers School
Faversham Road, Kennington
Ashford, Kent TN24 9AL
Tel: 01233 634171 • Fax: 01233 628326
Email: admin@towers.kent.sch.uk
11 – 19 Kent High School
1400 Students on roll (320 in 6th Form)

Teacher of Mathematics
(Full or Part-Time) • required as soon as possible
MPS + TLR 2a (£5,921)

Ofsted in May 2008 described Towers as a 'good school', and this is a key post in the future development of the school as we strive towards 'outstanding'. We are a successful Business and Enterprise specialist school, with Full Service Extended School status, and with one of the largest Sixth Forms in the County.

We are looking to recruit an additional Mathematics Teacher to join this strong and supportive department. The successful candidate will work with the Lead Teacher focussing on students that are predicted to achieve C/D at the end of Key Stage 4. The school has made significant gains in Math's outcomes in the last 3 years and this post will help achieve 50% + this year.

Applications are by CV and covering letter by email on admin@towers.kent.sch.uk, fax on 01233 628326 or post. Please mark for the attention of Mrs Kyla Weedon. All applications should be received by Wednesday, 26th November 2008. Interviews will be held the following week.

New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering
Support Opportunities

Mid Kent College (MCC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

Facilities Manager Circa £38,000 – to take full responsibility for the buildings & infrastructure (including workshops and classrooms) occupied by MCC Training Services on site at the RSME. Experience of the management of Electro/Mechanical services essential.

Workshop Assistant £19,008 - £21,000 – to provide practical support within the Fitter Department, assisting with the smooth running of the stores, light maintenance duties and the movement of equipment. Would suit someone with a mechanical background and a current Fork Lift licence.

ICT Site Engineer £19,736 - £25,441 – to provide support and maintenance in response to "logged" fault calls. Must be familiar with the configuration and use of all Microsoft desk top operating systems and experienced with configuring and installing computer hardware/ancillary components. You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and/or experience relevant for these posts, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**
Closing Date 5th December 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MCC Training Services is an equal opportunity employer

MCC Training Services Limited
The Best School of Military Engineering

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The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people affected by autism. We provide a wide range of advice, information, support and specialist services to 100,000 people each year, and campaign and lobby positive change for the half a million people in the UK with autism.



Lead Teacher and Head of Further Education Department

Helen Allison School

Longfield Road, Meopham, Kent DA13 0EW
LS3 - 11

Required January 09 or asap

Helen Allison School is an independent school that provides specialist education and care for 70 children and young people with an autistic spectrum disorder aged 5-19 years. We have a residential provision that caters for 29 students on a 38 week basis.

We are looking for a qualified teacher with experience of teaching children with autism and Asperger syndrome. You will have responsibility for the management and curriculum of our current off-site Further Education Department. A new Further Education premises is in the process of being planned and you will be involved with this exciting development. In addition you will promote best practice through monitoring the teaching, learning and assessment throughout the school.

This is an excellent opportunity if you are keen to meet new challenges as part of our senior leadership team. In return for your commitment, we will give you all the support and encouragement you need to develop. You will also benefit from a significant training and resource budget.

For further information, visits or an informal discussion please contact Rosie Williams, Deputy Principal Education on 01474 814878 or email helenallison@nas.org.uk

Closing date: 12.00 Midday Monday 15 December 2008

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger syndrome.

Please note: this post requires us to ask about the successful applicant's criminal records and proceed with an Enhanced Disclosure application. You will also be required to complete a Health Management Pre-Employment Health Questionnaire.

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www.autism.org.uk/jobs



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SELLINDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCY FULL TIME SCHOOL SECRETARY

Required for January 2009
Kent Pay Scheme Band 5
40 weeks a year 8:30 - 4:00

For details please contact: Miss Baxter
Sellindge Primary School,
Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6JY
Tel: 01303-812073

Email: headteacher@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008

Email: office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

A Specialist Voluntary Controlled School in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities. An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form.

PASTORAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT

We require a full time Pastoral Support Assistant who would be prepared to act as a Cover Supervisor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start in January 2009. Salary will be according to age and experience and will be paid at Medway Grade D2 - Salary range £14,782 - £18,799 pro rata.

The school is expanding its team of support staff in order to enhance our pastoral structure and allow teachers to be at the forefront of learning. Do you relate well to young people? Could you support students at times when they meet barriers to their learning? Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals? Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

If so, please contact Mrs J Harrison for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008.

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications
- Friday, 12th December 2008



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New start for 2009
The Royal School of Military Engineering
Engineering Opportunities: £35,000 - £40,000 (Snr Post c£45k)

Mid Kent College (MCK) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to strengthen the teams already in place at the RSME as the 30 year contract transitions to the Colleges management team.

We have opportunities for experienced engineers (ideally degree qualified) to move into lecturing roles. The Professional Engineering Wing (PEW) of the RSME develops military personnel into Clerk of Works to IEng, foundation degree and HND level.

We have positions for:

Electrical Engineers with DC, AC & single/three phase, power generation, transmission & distribution up to 11kV, generators & motors and domestic installations knowledge and experience.

Mechanical Engineers with fluid mechanics & thermodynamics, pipe design and pump sizing, H & C water supply/waste, large scale heating system design, ACR/HVAC control systems and lift technology knowledge and experience.

Construction Engineers with groundwork, timber, masonry & scaffolding, superstructures, finishes and services knowledge and experience.

Project Planner with experience of building site project management and work programming.

Civil Engineer (Snr post) ICE with "contractor" background.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development and will be fully supported to gain additional relevant qualifications, memberships and accreditations that develop you as an engineer and benefit the PEW faculty.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk

Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk

Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: Ken Pullan on 07725128661

Closing Date 31st January 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer



MCK Training Services Limited
at The Royal School of Military Engineering

PUBLIC NOTICES

**The Insolvency Act 1986
SB BUSINESS CONSULTANCY
LIMITED**
(Company Number 05343819)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of MBI Coakley Ltd, Second Floor, Tinsgate Square, 98-100 High Street, Guildford, Surrey on 15 December 2008 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

SOUTH EAST TILES LIMITED
Company Number 05682067
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of MBI Coakley Ltd, Second Floor, Tinsgate Square, 98-100 High Street, Guildford, Surrey on 15 December 2008 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

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New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering Course Designer

Salary £34,000 per annum

MidKent College (MCK) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

If you are a Course Designer and would enjoy using your skills and experience to help develop the Military artisans of tomorrow, then this could be the ideal opportunity for you.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and experience relevant for this post, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

If this sounds like the right role for you - get in touch now

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk

Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk

Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: Ken Pullan on 07725128661

Closing Date 30th November 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer



MCK Training Services Limited
at The Royal School of Military Engineering

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(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



WOMEN seeking men

LOVELY SUSIE
Sensitive, shy, caring lady, 20, loves life, sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WILTM handsome gent to find love with. Box 445323

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde/blue, likes shopping, cinema, animals, WILTM honest and trustworthy male, 28-38, Box 446039

I LOVE FOOTBALL
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for like-minded male to be my soulmate. Box 446494

MAYBE MORE
Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WILTM fun man 25-30, I'm female, 26, brown hair/eyes, average build. Box 445822

SNUGGLE UP
Tall, attractive, good-hearted African female, 28, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wilm white male for friendship/romance. Box 441654

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www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

CUDDLY FEMALE

32, 5ft6, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WILTM nice, kind gent. Box 394902

ATTENTION! TALL WHITE GUY REQUIRED

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-77, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, wilm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, bent in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND

38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

FUTURE FUN, PASSION & ADVENTURE!

Separated brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WILTM a kind and considerate tall white male. Box 445684

COOK UP A STORM

Tunbridge Wells lady, brown hair/eyes, 38, I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WILTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443575

NICE TO MEET YOU

On Nina, 40, single mum, looking to meet a single dad, single dogs welcome, for friendship and more. I like motorbikes, wildlife and the beach. Box 446679

COME ON OVER

Divorced female, 40, likes fishing, swimming, walking and eating out, WILTM young man, for friendship and more. Box 446097

TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, happily, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, wilm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

FAIRY TALE ENDING

Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521

WHITE ROSES

Very attractive female, 42, slim, green eyes, high cheek bones, wicked SOH! Loves to make people laugh, seeking intelligent, well-mannered, kind man. Box 446543

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY

Caring lovely lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidence, seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 885761

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving, caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship. Box 446724

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa, looking for kind, caring, loyal male. Box 431557

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 441156

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS

Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and like-loving. Box 446102

LOVELY JOSEPHINE

Passionate and fun-loving 43yr old female, enjoys dancing, meals out and cooking, WILTM a male to share evenings out with. Box 445225

ATTRACTIVE

Professional female, 43, enjoys dancing, walking, reading and cooking, WILTM intelligent professional male, who can hold a good conversation, for a relationship. Box 444862

LOVING, CARING & HONEST

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre, would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

INTERESTED? GIVE ME A CALL

Homey traditional lady, 44, 5ft8, slim-medium build, non-smoker, love animals, my dog!, walks along the harbour, country pubs, WILTM similar gent for romance. Box 446277

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WILTM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751

MISS JULIE

Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 886162

DEEP DEEPER

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Diver. Box 435441

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?

Independent, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WILTM a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889900

HERE WE ARE

Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444572

MAKE ME LAUGH

Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends. Box 442905

EVERLASTING LOVE

Beautiful black female, 46, WILTM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 445407

ETERNALLY YOUNG

Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, cooking, I'm 48, 5ft2, medium build. WILTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

WE'LL SEE

Blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft5, slim build, looking for friendship, maybe more. I'm a nice woman, 47, seeking good male, for friendship, possibly more. Box 445932

SANDY SEES DANNY

Slim, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trust-worthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Single 47yr old lovely female, 5ft5, slim build, blonde hair, blue-green eyes, seeking male for potential LTR, must have GSOH! Box 885288

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

JUST IMAGINE

Fat, blonde, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WILTM genuine male, to see what happens! Box 893562

WHERE R U?

Cherishful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347

DEEP DEEPER

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Diver. Box 435441

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?

Independent, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WILTM a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

LOVING & HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

Jovial, caring female, 51, 5'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, own business, wilm nice, tall, good looking gent for laughter, life and love. Box 926614

NOTHING VENTURED...

New to this, I'm a 53yr old woman, seeking loving, tactile man. I enjoy walks, countryside, having fun, nights in and out. Box 446282

SEEING THROUGH THE STRAINERS

Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WILTM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383

ARE YOU MY BOND... JAMES BOND?

Kind, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes, N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising, seeking tall, considerate, honest gent for hopeful LTR. Box 446079

SEEKING SOULMATE

Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blue eyes, sociable, loves music, dancing, travelling; seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446634

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WILTM an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with. Box 445122

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SOPHISTICATED SUE

Sue, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, wilm a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309

DANCE WITH ME?

Slim, blonde female, 57, interested hugely in live music of all genres, eating out, pubs (with music!). Looking for companionship initially. Not looking for marriage! Box 887517

HELP!

Positive, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks and music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with...disgraceful! Box 444943

DESPERATELY SOUGHT BY SUSAN!

Sue, 60, 5ft2, caring and bubbly, like walks, the theatre and eating out, looking for that special male, 59-64, N/S, who can make me laugh. Eastbourne Box 446135

FRESH AIR

Smart, attractive, bubbly blonde, 71, medium build, N/S, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WILTM smart gentleman for friendship, maybe more. Box 438147

Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142

LOVELY LY

Young-looking attractive female, 54, n/s, friendly and sociable, love music, dance and history, warm and sparky, WILTM a genuine female for a close female friendship. Box 445146



MEN seeking women

SECRET SMILE

Young guy, 19, dark complexion, enjoys socialising, cinema, pubs and clubs, looking for a girl to go out and enjoy life with. Box 446706

AIMING TO PLEASE!

Down to earth guy, 19, slim build, 6ft, green eyes, romantic, likes to socialise and hoping to meet new people, especially the one! Box 446740

ALL THE GOOD THINGS

Hi I'm Rob, 22, 6ft3, short dark hair, hazel eyes, enjoys cinema, cosy nights in, cinema, sports; seeking female 20-28 with GSOH for LTR. Box 446646

BLUE-EYED BOY

5ft8, blond-haired, blue-eyed, average-build guy, 23, likes hanging out with friends, trying new things, meeting new people, seeking similar girl for mutual love. Box 888422

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/leaving out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Man of adventure, 31, enjoys exploring, trying new things, being active, GSOH, good listener, seeking similar female to spend life with. Box 446870

LOOKING FOR YOU

Normal down-to-earth guy 5ft9, short hair, brown eyes, medium build, 34, love to meet female any age for outgoing, fun, friendly times and maybe more. Box 446154

LOVING

Outgoing male, 34, loves bowling and cosy nights in, WILTM an outgoing, bubbly and kind-hearted female to spend the rest of my life with. Box 445567

HERE WE ARE

Loving, caring male, 36, likes restaurants, drinks, works hard, non-smoker, WILTM young lady 25-36, no ties, for lasting relationship. Box 446582

TIME TO TIME

Italian origin male, 36, tall, dark hair and eyes, loves good fun, very handsome, seeks bubbly, outgoing girl to take out and spoil. Box 446588

NON-SMOKING

Separated male, 36, 6ft, good looks and SOH, kind, caring and sensual, into films and fitness. Seeking a cute to share life and love with. Box 445729

EVERYTHING I DO

Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wilm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

YOUR TIME IS COMING

Maidstone male, 35, dark blond hair, dark eyes, nice looking, have 1 little girl, own business, varied interests, looking for a fun lady, under 40 Box 429375

R U A ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

HOP ON!

Hi, I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorbikes, WILTM a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124

YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR

Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446693

TRUE HONESTY, TRUE LOVE

Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446581

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, seeks w/e games, books, cinema, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750

HONEST AND KIND

Down-to-earth male, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sports; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596

R WE THE SAME

Sporty single dad, 41, 5ft6, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, looking for a genuine woman for friendship and more. Box 446093

SOON TO BE DIVORCED

My name is Steve, 41yrs young, 5ft7, normal build, looking for good company to share with a female of height. GSOH is a must! Box 885615

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY

Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laughs, days out and much more. Box 436896

HONEST AND LOYAL

<



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus on staff welfare pays off for holiday park

KEEPING its staff as happy as its customers has won Ashcroft Coast Holiday Park, near Leysdown, the national Investors in People award.

The title provides a framework for improving performance and competitiveness through training and development.

Gary Cook, general manager, said: "As part of our parent company, Park Resorts, we already had good practices in place, including training courses and a mystery shopper scheme.

"Since we started working with Investors in People I now hold weekly heads-of-department meetings and they in turn have their own team meetings.

"We also have 'Ten on Ten' daily, a ten-minute get-together to discuss any issues arising and which helps boost morale."

Marketing on the menu at breakfast meetings

A SERIES of business breakfasts offering practical marketing help and advice has been organised by the Kent branch of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM).

Using professional marketers and aimed at the county's small and medium sized businesses (SMEs), Simply Better Marketing will help people make the most of marketing resources.

The first three events will offer businesses simple marketing advice. They will be run in conjunction with Business Link and hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University at Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown.

They are on February 25, March 25 and April 30. The Kent Branch of the CIM has more than 1,000 members.

For details, visit www.cim.co.uk.

Buy local to boost county economy this Christmas

PRODUCED IN KENT, the champion of food and drink producers across the county, is hoping more people than ever will take a trip to their local farm shops, independent retailers and farmers' markets when getting ready for Christmas.

Many families will be looking for ways to save money this year and it is also a time when local producers can compete with supermarkets in terms of seasonal staples.

Market research has shown that every £10 spent on local produce is worth £25 to the Kent economy, compared with only £14 when it's spent in a supermarket.

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KOS Media's Paul Stannard on our £1m challenge. See our business channel.

Banks' turn to help firms out of bad debt

■ BY TONY PATEY

BANKS had better pull out their fingers and start lending at sensible levels to struggling businesses.

The stiff verdict comes after the news that more than half of UK accountants reckon bad debts are one of the biggest worries for bosses.

Research by invoice and asset-based lender Venture Finance shows the knock-on domino effect of lack of cash, leading to late payments among firms along the chain, is unsurprisingly having a major impact.

Up to now, lack of liquidity – ready day-to-day cash – in the general banking market has already meant companies face difficulties when trying to re-finance – resulting in businesses of all sizes experiencing more and more late payments and bad debt.

Available

In Chancellor Alistair Darling's pre-Budget report last week the Government agreed a whopping £4 billion deal with the European Investment Bank for banks to pass on, and seven UK banks have already asked to be part of the action, and could be making money available by the end of the year.

There is also the credit worth £1bn to small firms which will be offered by the Government via a temporary Small Business Finance Scheme, and Mr Darling said from January that there will be short-term working capital help to small exporters to the tune of another £1bn.

Venture, which has a regional office in Canterbury covering the whole county, says that small and

medium sized enterprises (SMEs) feel threatened by forecasts that the number of business failures between 2007 and 2009 is expected to increase by 18 per cent.

But scores of businesses have no bad debt protection in place, often, it says, a result of having misplaced confidence in their customers.

Just one in five of accountants surveyed had business clients currently using protection services.

Dangerous

Tim Bourner, Venture's Canterbury business development manager, said: "The misguided assumption that 'it will never happen to me' is very dangerous, especially in these uncertain times.

"It is predicted that insolvency levels will continue to rise throughout this year and next, surpassing even those of the dot.com bubble burst in 2002, which saw almost 20,000 business fail, and the subsequent ripples will be far-reaching.

"It is encouraging, however, to see that accountants recognise the value of bad debt protection – perhaps because they have witnessed the consequences of businesses not doing so in the past."

Bad debt protection gives full cover on invoices, providing small to medium enterprises peace of mind and sheltering business against unforeseen loss of income.

Especially for a young company, late payment and non-payment can have a significant effect on cashflow, causing huge financial strain and threatening business security.



BIG DEAL: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, announced a £7 billion package of measures for the county's businesses in his pre-Budget report last week



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Late change saves quartet from horror of Mumbai

Picture IGOR KUPCO



CLOSE: Denly (right) and his county colleagues were due to be staying in Mumbai

FOUR Kent cricketers in the England Performance Programme returned to the county on Friday after their tour of India was cancelled due to the terror attacks in Mumbai.

Joe Denly, Rob Key, Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph were 500 miles away in Bangalore preparing for their first warm-up match when the attacks began last Wednesday.

It has emerged the Kent quartet could easily have been caught up in the chaos but for a late change in itinerary.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan, who was also in the EPP, wrote in his column with a national newspaper the original training

CRICKET

camp for the squad was due to be Mumbai, but it was switched to Bangalore.

The team would have stayed in the Taj Mahal, one of the hotels where terrorists attacked.

The EPP squad were due to travel to Mumbai today, ahead of a fortnight spent training in the city which included a four-day game.

But due to the increased threat to security the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) took a decision to send the 15 players back home straight away, along with the

main England squad.

ECB managing director Hugh Morris said: "This is a tragic event and the players feel desperately sorry for all that are caught up in the events in Mumbai. They're very disturbed by it as we all are."

The first team squad's remaining two One-Day Internationals against India were immediately scrapped.

The news was a particular blow to paceman Khan, who had been called up into the squad for the games as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff and Stuart Broad.

The team are expected to return to India for the two-match Test series next month, but it is unclear whether the EPP squad will join them.

Bay left high but not dry by weather

HEAVY rain forced Herne Bay to postpone their match against VCD Athletic at Winch's Field on Saturday.

Both goalmouths were submerged, leaving the referee no option but to call the fixture off.

It was not the only game to fall victim to the weather, with play not possible in the games involving the Kent League's top two, Holmesdale and Tunbridge Wells.

Barry Morgan's side remain fourth in the table, eight points off the summit, but with a game in hand.

Bay will be looking for their seventh successive win in all competitions when they travel to Beckenham Town in the league on Saturday.

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Catch-up with the action from Invicta Dynamos' game against Oxford City Stars

Euro championship beckons for fighter

A THAI boxer from Herne Bay will compete for England at the European Championships next year after winning a regional title.

Jamie Lambert, 20, who trains at the Warriors Gym in Herne Bay, won all five rounds of the title bout in Swanley last month. The victory, by far the biggest of his fledgling career, crowned him as the International Sport Kickboxing Association southern area champion.

Head coach Lee Whittington said: "I think Jamie's got potential to go further."

The title guarantees Lambert a place in the European Championships in Rome next October.

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Picture KEITH SATERGORDON

DISAPPOINTING STUFF: Kevin Fewell's (right) heroics in goal were in stark contrast to several of his team-mates on Saturday, much to manager Marc Seager's (left) frustration

Seager hints at relegation after lacklustre showing

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Godalming Town 4

Williams 4, Mariner 9, Tiriyaki 25, 61

Whitstable Town 0

Despite not picking up many points in recent weeks, there had been signs of improvement with a series of good performances.

After beating a strong Angels side in mid-week it appeared they had turned the corner, but all the good work was undone inside nine minutes.

By that stage Godalming were 2-0 up and they were virtually out of sight with a third goal before the half hour mark.

Fewell earned the man of the match award for a brilliant game between the sticks. The stopper saved a penalty and made three outstanding blocks to keep the score down, but was

Whitstable starting XI



Subs used: Dolton (Wisker 60), Tanner (Munday 60)

powerless to prevent a fourth goal just after the hour mark.

Seager said: "I've told our players to bring a shovel with them on Saturday because we are going to have to dig in for a relegation battle."

"If we continue to play like that we will go down and I'm not going to let that happen."

Their stay in the bottom two would be a brief one if they beat Walton Casuals at the Belmont on Saturday.

Town were in League Cup action on Monday night against Sittingbourne. Log on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for the report.

City given added impetus by their summer signings

CANTERBURY City manager Dave Fairclough believes the players brought into the club during the summer have played a big role in continuing the club's impressive form.

City romped to the County League Division Two East title last season, but Fairclough still made significant changes to personnel during the close season.

The move has paid dividends so far, with City five points clear at the top of the Division One East table.

Fairclough said: "At the start of the season we said we wanted to raise the bar and we have been able to do that."

Success

"We have managed to rotate seven or eight players and the new ones have added quality and gradually imposed themselves, which is very encouraging."

"They have raised the performances of the existing players as well because we have such competition for places."

While all have made an impact, Fairclough has been particularly impressed with several of his new recruits. He compared Tony Jackson to Alan Ball in his relentless energy and despite the full-back's diminutive frame, he has even filled in with success at centre-back.

Ian Hossick, who came in from a

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

coaching role at Whitstable Town, has also proved to be a shrewd addition.

Fairclough said: "Ian's got that determination and leadership that's going to be so important at the next level. In certain games you have to win the battle first and he is a winner, playing with a lot of passion and heart."

"Last year I thought we were a bit short of leadership, but now we have three or four players, including Dave Read and Michael Seager, who are big match players."

City were forced to sit back and watch their nearest challengers, AFC Sheppey and University of Kent, close the gap on Saturday after their match at Otford was called off.

Despite this they are in pole position to seal back-to-back promotions, with only two points dropped all season.

One added factor in their favour is while the leaders have played all their rivals once already, several of the chasing sides still have to play each other twice, so are certain to drop points.

City are in Les Leckie cup action this weekend, when they visit struggling Lydd Town.

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: DAVID MILLANEY

LEADING LIGHT: Dave Read is one of several players to make their mark for Canterbury City who have a five-point lead in County League Division One East

ATHLETICS



LISTENING: Harland will represent athletes' interests

Harland handed new role in sport as she contemplates future

INJURY robbed her of the chance to compete in the modern pentathlon at the Beijing Olympics, but Georgina Harland is hoping to play an influential role in the sport up to the London Games.

The 30-year-old's chances of returning to elite competition still hang in the balance more than six months after rupturing a calf muscle. But last week Harland's career took a new direction when she was announced as the chair for the Athletes Committee at the sport's congress in Guatemala.

The Athens Olympic bronze medallist from Canterbury will serve a four-year term in the voluntary role, which starts in January, travelling all over the world to represent athletes' interests.

She said: "My aim is to ensure the athletes are represented fairly and their opinions and ideas are heard because they are instrumental to the sport. I have had ten really good years out of pentathlon and now I want to give something back."

Her position gives her a seat on the executive board of the sport's governing body, the International Modern Pentathlon Union (UIPM).

Harland's tenure begins at an uncertain time for the sport, which is undergoing the most radical change since its creation in the 19th century. At the congress the UIPM approved plans to combine the shooting and running events into a single discipline, which will come into force in January.

The decision was taken to make modern pentathlon more media and spectator friendly, with the final event becoming a summer version of the biathlon seen in the Winter Olympics.

It has been met with criticism from some quarters and one of Harland's first tasks will be to help smooth the transition to the new format.

She said: "Some athletes are unhappy with the speed of the changes that have been brought in. That's the main concern because most of them haven't been able to test it."

"This is the future and we have four years to get it right before London 2012. In terms of representing the athletes my next step is to ensure they get the support they need."

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstonian	18	11	5	2	+22	38
2 Metropolitan Police	19	9	7	3	+12	34
3 Fleet Town	18	9	6	3	+17	33
4 Cray Wanderers	18	10	3	5	+14	33
5 Dulwich Hamlet (-3)	19	10	5	4	+15	32
6 Folkestone Invicta	19	8	6	5	+4	30
7 Merstham	17	9	3	5	+3	30
8 Worthing	16	8	5	3	+8	29
9 Walton & Hersham	19	8	5	6	+2	29
10 Godalming Town	18	8	4	6	+12	28
11 Sittingbourne	16	8	2	6	0	26
12 Ashford Town	19	5	9	5	+6	24
13 Eastbourne Town	19	7	3	9	+1	24
14 Leatherhead	16	7	3	6	-4	24
15 Whyteleafe	18	7	2	9	-4	23
16 Burgess Hill Town	18	5	5	8	-3	20
17 Chislehead	18	4	5	9	-19	17
18 Croydon Athletic	18	4	4	10	-8	16
19 Walton Casuals	19	4	4	11	-13	16
20 Corinthian-Casuals	19	3	5	11	-21	14
21 Whitstable Town	19	4	2	13	-25	14
22 Crowthorne Ath	18	3	3	12	-19	12

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Holmesdale	15	10	3	2	+16	33
2 Hythe Town	14	10	2	2	+18	32
3 Tunbridge Wells	13	10	0	3	+12	30
4 Herne Bay	14	8	1	5	+10	25
5 Faversham Town	12	8	0	4	+23	24
6 Deal Town	14	5	4	5	+2	19
7 Sevenoaks Town	14	5	4	5	0	19
8 Erith & Belvedere	10	6	1	3	-1	19
9 Greenwicks Borough	13	6	1	6	-2	19
10 Erith Town	12	5	3	4	+5	18
11 Slade Green	15	5	3	7	-2	18
12 VCD Athletic	11	5	1	5	+11	16
13 Norton Sports	12	5	1	6	-8	16
14 Beckenham Town	15	4	2	9	-3	14
15 Croydon	11	4	1	6	-1	13
16 Lordswood	13	1	1	11	-21	4
17 Sporting Bengal Utd	14	0	0	14	-59	0

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION ONE EAST

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Canterbury City	8	7	1	0	+29	22
2 AFC Sheppey	8	5	2	1	+3	17
3 University of Kent	7	5	1	1	+26	16
4 APM Mears	7	3	3	1	+9	12
5 Otford Utd	7	3	2	2	+5	11
6 Gurney Nank	6	2	2	2	-8	8
7 New Romney	8	2	2	4	-11	8
8 Staplehurst & Mon.	7	2	1	4	-14	7
9 Kennington	7	1	2	4	-8	5
10 Oakwood	7	0	2	5	-10	2
11 Lydd Town	8	1	0	7	-21	2

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South - Whitstable Town v Walton Casuals; Kent League Premier Division - Beckenham Town v Herne Bay; Les Leckie Cup - Lydd Town v Canterbury City (1.30pm)

Richmond run city ragged as a flurry of tries secure the points

RUGBY

Richmond 37 Canterbury 25

A POOR defensive spell just after half-time cost Canterbury the chance of taking anything from their trip to Richmond.

The game was evenly balanced at the interval, but mistakes allowed the home side to score three quick tries to build a big lead. It left Canterbury playing catch-up for the rest of the game, but the gap was too wide to bridge.

Richmond took an early lead, but tries from Danny Willcox, in for the injured Mike Melford, and Ben Smith gave Canterbury a 15-8 lead. A second try for the hosts saw the teams go in for half-time level at 15-15.

The game could have gone either way, but Richmond took advantage of some slack defending to build a healthy lead. One of their three tries looked to be offside, but it did not disguise the City club's frailties as they fell 17 points behind.

Ben Thomas scored a penalty, but Richmond scored their sixth try when one player swept aside three weak tackles to make it 37-18.

An excellent try from Thomas narrowed the gap and Canterbury would have claimed two bonus points but for a bad error with the last play of the game.

Kieron Lewitt sent a high cross-field kick to James Birnage, who tossed the ball inside for Chris Hinkins. The captain just had to pick the ball up to score, but he knocked on to ensure Canterbury left empty-handed.

The defeat left Canterbury tenth in National 3 South ahead of Saturday's tough home game against third-placed Rosslyn Park.



Picture: IAN KUPKO

NO REWARD: Canterbury paid dearly for an error-strewn period in the second half against Richmond

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on the loss of the club's scouting network



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